

The Dreadful Earthquake in Jamaica. June 7. 1692.



The General
HISTORY
 OF
Earthquakes
 BEING

An Account of the most Remarkable and Tremendous Earthquakes that have happened in divers parts of the World, from the Creation to this time; As they are recorded by Sacred and Common Authors; And particularly those lately in

**Naples, Jamaica and
 Smyrna, Sicily.**

With a description of the famous burning Mount, *Aetna*, in that Island; And a Relation of the several dreadful Conflagrations and Fiery Irruptions thereof for many Ages.

Likewise the Natural and Material Causes of Earthquakes, with the usual Signs and Prognosticks of their approach; And the Consequents and Effects that have followed several of them.

By *R. B.*

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TO THE
R E A D E R.

THE several dreadful Earth-
quakes that have happened in di-
vers parts of the World within a few
years past, and among others that in
the island of Jamaica, and another in
England, wherein the People of this
Nation is particularly concerned, seem
to call aloud for Repentance and Refor-
mation of the horrid Enormities that
are boldly committed amongst us ; for
the Almighty executes his Judgments
upon Mankind that the People of the
Earth might learn Righteousness.
Therefore the collecting and publishing
the terrible Relations of Earthquakes,
needs no Apology, and may I hope be
influential upon the minds of men, who
appear affected with the dismal ac-
counts that have been lately given of
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To the Reader.

these terrible Visitations of God.

I have been the more incouraged to proceed in Printing these small Manuals by the acceptance that others of this nature have already met with, which, I find, has occasioned many, (especially young people) to lay aside those vain and idle Songs and Romances wherewith they were formerly Con- versant and to divert their vacant hours with reading the real Transacti- ons, Revolutions and Accidents that are recorded by Authors of the greatest Veracity, to have happened in divers Ages and Countreys. And this being of that kind, I have no cause to doubt, but it may meet with as civil Treatment as as those that have already been made publick by

R. B.

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The General

HISTORY OF Earthquakes.

1. **A**Mong the several Plagues and Judgments wherewith the Almighty visiteth, and punisheth the Enormities and Sins of Man- kind, that of Earthquakes may be account- ed the most Dreadful and Tremendous, which in an instant swalloweth up thousands of people of all Qualities and Ages, toge- ther with the most superb and stately Edifi- ces that Pride and Ambition can raise, in a moment, even in the twinkling of an Eye, to convince men of the Greatness and Pow- er of the Supream Creator, and how vain it is to value themselves upon any mundane enjoyments; Of which we have lately had

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very astonishing Instances in several parts of the World.

II. But before I proceed to give a Relation of them, it may be necessary to discover the Natural Causes of this dreadful Concussion of the Earth, which the God of Heaven makes use of to signify his Displeasure for the provoking Crimes of Nation and People; Of which a Learned Divine gives the following account.

III. An Earthquake is a shaking of the Earth, occasioned by Wind and Exhalations inclosed within the Caves and Bowels of the Earth, which can find no passage, or at least none long enough to discharge themselves, and therefore breaking forth with great force and violence, it sometimes shaketh the Earth, another while rendeth and openeth the same, sometimes casting up Earth a great height into the Air, other while causing the ground to sink down a great depth, swallowing Cities, Towns, Palaces, Castles, yea prodigious high Mountains, leaving in the place nothing but deep holes, or long and unfathomable Lakes of Water.

IV. Authors Write differently of the several kinds of Earthquakes, but they usually comprehend them under four; The first
kind

kind is when the Earth is shaken laterally or to one side, the whole force of the inclosed Wind and Vapours driving to one place, and there is no contrary motion to hinder it. This Wind, if it be not great, causeth the Earth to tremble like a man in an Ague Fit, and doth no more harm, but if it be strong and violent, it looseth the Foundations of all Buildings though never so firm, overthrows whole Cities, and sometimes throws down great Hills, so that they overwhelm all the Valleys under them. The second kind is, when the Earth is lifted up with great violence so that the Buildings are like to fall, and instantly sink down again, and this is caused by the force of the Winds which strive to get upward like Gunpowder, and finding some deliverance from confinement, the Earth falls down to its former place. The third sort is the opening rending or gaping of the Earth, which sinking down swallows up Cities, Towns, yea Rocks, Rivers and Flouds, and so that they never appear again; Nay the Sea in some places hath been drunk up, so that People have gone over on foot, till the returning Tyde hath covered the place with Water again. The last kind is, when great Mountains arise out of the Earth, or

else when some part of the Land sinketh down, and instead thereof arise Rivers, Lakes or Fires, breaking out with Smoak and Ashes; Sometimes the bottom of the Sea is lifted up, whereby many Islands are made that were never seen before; Of which History gives large accounts.

V. If it be asked how such mighty Winds come to be under the Earth, the Philosophers answer, that the great Caves and Dens of the Earth being always full of Air, when the heat of the Sun resolves the moisture of the Earth many Exhalations are generated, both within and without the same: and the places being full before, can receive no more, unless some part be let out, so that in those Countries where the Earth hath but few Pores, or where they are stoppt with moisture, it must necessarily happen, that these Exhalations striving to get out, must needs rend the Earth, or lift it up, either to get free passage, or to make room enough to abide within.

VI. It has been observed That there are usually several Signs and Presages of this terrible Calamity. As first the raging of the Sea when there are no Tempestuous Winds to move it, yea in the greatest Calm, which is occasioned by the Winds labouring

labouring to get passage that way, but being repelled, soon after shakes the Earth. Again the Water in the bottom of deep Wells is troubled and infected with a Sulphurous smell, from the pestilent Exhalations long inclosed within the Earth, which now begin to spread abroad; And hereupon, in divers places an Earthquake has caused abundance of Smoak, Flame and Ashes to issue forth, by reason that the vast quantity of Brimstone under ground is by the violent motion set on Fire and bursteth out, so that it is a wonder if after an Earthquake some grievous Pestilence does not follow, the whole Mass of the Poysonous Minerals within the Bowels of the Earth being by this furious shock blown abroad into the Air. Another presage is the calmness and coldness of the Air, by reason the Exhalation that should be abroad is within the Earth. Another is said to be, a long thin strake of Cloud seen when the Sky is clear after Sun set, which, they say, is caused by the Vapour or Exhalation which is the matter of Clouds, being gone into the Earth. Others affirm that it is the Exhalation which issueth from some narrow passage out of which the rest of the Wind cannot come, and therefore soon after by a sudden Eruption makes a broader way

way to deliver it self out of Prison. Likewise the Sun appeareth dim certain days before, because the Winds that should purge and dissipate the gross Air, which causeth this dimness, is inclosed within the Bowels of the Earth. Also the Birds perceiving a certain trembling and shaking at the Roots of the Trees, forsake them, and sit trembling on the ground. Lastly, there are heard before, at, and after an Earthquake great noises and sounds under the Earth, with terrible groanings and thunderings; Yea sometimes when no Earthquake follows, the Wind without any other effect finding a way to vent it self; Some of these are the general prognosticks and forewarnings of a dreadful Earthquake to follow.

VII. And certainly no other Calamity produces greater terror and astonishment in Mankind than this. For to have the Earth rock under one with that singular kind of motion which no humane art nor force can imitate, must needs be extream surprising; For though death may be familiar to some men in any other form, yet it appears very horrible to be buried alive, and to sink on a sudden into an unknown Grave they know not whether, perhaps they may fall into some dark Lake of Water, or it may

may be drenched in a River of fire, or be dashed on a Rock; for who can tell the dispositions of the Caverns below, or what sort of the Apartments there are under the Surface of the Earth? We walk on the Battlements of a marvellous structure, a Globe full of Tremendous secrets.

VIII. But though we have given some account of the Natural Causes of Earthquakes, yet it is very apparent that many have been supernatural, and caused by the immediate hand of God, of which we find several instances in holy Scripture, that we might dread and tremble before the Almighty who needs neither Vapours nor Exhalations to Execute his Vengeance upon incorrigible Offenders.

IX. The first of this kind that we read of was at the Promulgation of the Law at Mount *Sinai*, *Exodus* 19, 20. 'And the Lord said unto *Moses*, go unto the People and Sanctify them to day and to morrow, and be ready against the third day, for then the Lord will come down in the sight of all the People upon Mount *Sinai*, and thou shalt set bounds to the People round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves that ye go not up into the Mount, or touch the border of it, whosoever touch-

'eth.

8 The General History

'eth the Mount shall surely be put to death;
 'There shall not an hand touch it, but he
 'shall surely be Stoned or Shot through,
 'whether it be Man or Beast, it shall not
 'live, when the Trumpet soundeth long
 'they shall come up to the Mount. And
 'it came to pass on the third day in the
 'Morning that there were Thunders and
 'Lightnings and a thick Cloud upon the
 'Mount, and the Voice of the Trumpet
 'exceeding loud, so that all the People in
 'the Camp trembled. And Mount *Sinai*
 'was altogether on a Smoak, because the
 'Lord descended upon it in Fire, and the
 'smoak thereof ascended as the smoak of a
 'Furnace, and the whole Mount quaked
 'greatly. And all the People saw the
 'Thundring and the Lightnings, and the
 'noise of the Trumpet, and the Mountain
 'smoking, and when the People saw it they
 'removed afar off. And they said unto *Mo-*
 '*ses* speak thou with us and we will hear,
 'but let not God speak with us lest we
 'dye. And *Moses* said unto the People
 'Fear not; for God is come to prove you,
 'and that his fear may be before your Faces
 'that you Sin not. This happened in the
 year from the Creation of the World, 2513.

X.

of Earthquakes.

9

X. Another terrible Earthquake we find
 recorded *Number 16*. 'Now *Korab, Da-*
 '*than* and *Abiram*, with certain of the Chil-
 'dren of *Israel*, two hundred and fifty Prin-
 'ces of the Assembly, famous in the Con-
 'gregation, Men of Renown rose up, and
 'gathered themselves together against *Moses*
 'and against *Aaron*, and said unto them,
 'Ye take too much upon you seeing all the
 'Congregation is Holy, every one of them,
 'and the Lord is among them, wherefore
 'then lift you up your selves above the Con-
 'gregation of the Lord. And when *Mo-*
 '*ses* heard it, he fell upon his Face. And
 'he spake unto *Korab* and unto all his Com-
 'pany, saying, Even to Morrow the Lord
 'will shew you who are his, and who is
 'holy; and will cause him to come near to
 'him, even him whom he hath chosen will
 'he cause to come near to him. This do;
 'Take ye Censers, *Korab* and all his Com-
 'pany. And put Fire therein, and put In-
 'cense in them before the Lord to Morrow!
 'and it shall be that the man whom the
 'Lord doth chuse, he shall be holy, Ye
 'take too much upon you, ye Sons of *Levi*;
 'seemeth it a small thing unto you that the
 'God of *Israel* hath separated you from the
 'Congregation of *Israel*, to bring you near
 unto

unto himself, to do the service of the Tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the Congregation to Minister unto them? And he hath brought thee near unto him, and all thy Brethren the Sons of *Levi* with thee: and seek ye the Priest-hood also? For which Cause both thou and thy Company are gathered together against the Lord: and what is *Aaron* that ye murmur against him? And *Moses* sent to call *Dathan* and *Abiram* the Sons of *Eliab*: which said, we will not come up. Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that flourisheth with Milk and Honey to Kill us in the Wilderness, except thou make thy self altogether a Prince over us? Moreover thou hast not brought us into a Land that floweth with Milk and Honey, or given us Inheritance of Fields and Vineyards; wilt thou put out the Eyes of these men? we will not come up. And *Moses* was very wrath, and said unto the Lord, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one Ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them. And *Moses* said unto *Korah*, Be thou and all thy Company before the Lord, thou, and they, and *Aaron* to Morrow. And take every Man his Censer, and put Incense

Incense in them, and bring ye before the Lord every Man his Censer, two hundred and fifty Censers; thou also, and *Aaron* each of you his Censer; and put Fire in in them, and lay Incense thereon, and stand in the Door of the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the Glory of the Lord appeared unto all the Congregation. And the Lord spake unto *Moses*, and unto *Aaron* saying, separate your selves from among this Congregation that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces and said, O God, the God of the Spirits of all Flesh, shall one Man sin, and wilt thou be wrath with all the Congregation? And the Lord spake unto *Moses* saying, speak unto all the Congregation saying, Get you up from about the Tabernacle of *Korah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram*. And *Moses* rose up, and went unto *Dathan* and *Abiram*; and the Elders of *Israel* followed him. And he spake unto all the Congregation saying, Depart I pray you from the Tents of these Wicked Men, and touch nothing of theirs least you be consumed in all their Sins. So they gat them up from the Tabernacle of *Korah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram* on every side: and *Dathan* and *Abiram* came out, and stood in

' in the Door of their Tents, and their Wives,
 ' and their Sons, and their little Children.
 ' And *Moses* said, Hereby shall ye know
 ' that the Lord hath sent me to do all these
 ' works : for I have not done them of my
 ' own mind. If these men dye the common
 ' Death of all men, or if they be visited af-
 ' ter the visitation of all men ; then the
 ' Lord hath not sent me. But if the Lord
 ' make a new thing, and the Earth open
 ' her Mouth, and swallow them up, with
 ' all that appertain unto them, and they go
 ' down quick into the Pit ; then ye shall
 ' understand that these Men have provoked
 ' the Lord. And it came to pass as he had
 ' made an end of speaking all these words,
 ' that the ground clave asunder that was un-
 ' der them : And the Earth opened her
 ' Mouth, and swallowed them up, and their
 ' Houses, and all the Men that appertained
 ' unto *Korab*, and all their Goods. They
 ' and all that appertained to them, went
 ' down alive into the Pit, and the Earth
 ' closed upon them : and they perished from
 ' among the Congregation. And all *Israel*
 ' that were round about them, fled at the
 ' cry of them : for they said, Lest the Earth
 ' swallow us up also. And there came out
 ' a Fire from the Lord, and consumed the

' two hundred and fifty men that offered
 ' Incense.

Josephus in his History of the Antiquities
 of the Jews gives the following account of
 this dreadful Judgment ; That *Moses* mak-
 ing a large Prayer, intermixt with Tears,
 while he was speaking, the Earth instantly
 trembled, and shaking began to move like
 a Billow of the Sea raised by the violence of
 Wind ; at which all the People were sorely
 amazed, after which an horrible and shat-
 tering Noise was made about their Tents,
 and instantly the Earth opened and swal-
 lowed up both them and all that belonged
 to them, insomuch that nothing which was
 theirs remained to be seen ; And the Earth
 in a moment closing again the vast gaping
 immediately was shut, so that there was not
 the least appearance of what had happened ;
 Thus perished they all, leaving behind
 them an example of Gods Power and Judg-
 ment, and this accident was the more mi-
 serable in that there were none, even of
 their Kinsfolks and Allies that had compas-
 sion of them, so that the whole People for-
 getting what was passed, allowed Gods
 Justice with joyful Acclamations ; esteem-
 ing them unworthy to be bewailed, but to
 accounted as the Plague and Perverters of
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the People. After this, saith he, there suddenly appeared so bright a Fire that the like was never kindled by the hand of man, nor ever broke forth from the Bowels of burning Mountains; nor could proceed from any natural cause, but such as seemed to be kindled from Heaven, exceeding light and flaming, by the fury and violence of which those two hundred and fifty, together with *Korah*, were so consumed that there scarce appeared any relicks of their Carcases; Only *Aaron* remained untouched, to the end that it might appear this Fire came from Heaven. This was in the year of the World, 2515.

XI. A third tremendous Earthquake caused by the immediate Power of God without any apparent or natural Cause, and whereby the Israelites gain'd a great Victory over the Philistines, is in 1 *Samuel* 14. And it came to pass on a Day that *Jonathan* the Son of *Saul* said unto the Young Man that bare his Armour, come and let us go over to the Philistines Garrison that is on the other side, but he told not his Father. And between the passages by which *Jonathan* sought to go over to the Philistines there was a sharp Rock on the one side, and a sharp Rock on the other side.

side. And *Jonathan* said to the young man that bare his Armour, come and let us go over unto the Garrison of these uncircumcised, it may be that the Lord will work for us, for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or few; And his Armour-bearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine Heart, turn thee, behold I am with thee according to thy Heart; Then said *Jonathan*, behold we will pass over unto these Men, and we will discover ourselves unto them, if they say unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. But if they say thus, Come up unto us then we will go up, for the Lord hath delivered them into our hand and this shall be a sign unto us. And both of them discovered themselves to the Garrison of the Philistines, and the Philistines said; Behold the Hebrews come forth out of their holes, where they had hid themselves, And the men of the Garrison answered *Jonathan* and his Armour bearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And *Jonathan* said unto his Armour bearer, Come up after me, for the Lord hath delivered them into the hand of *Israel*. And *Jonathan* climbed up

' up on his Hands and upon his Feet, and
 ' his Armour bearer after him, and they fell
 ' before *Jonathan*, and his Armour bearer
 ' flew after him. And that first slaughter
 ' which *Jonathan* and his Armour bearer
 ' made was about twenty men within as it
 ' were an half Acre of Land, which a yoke
 ' of Oxen might Plow. And there was
 ' trembling in the Host, in the Field, and
 ' among all the People: the Garrison and
 ' the Spoilers they also trembled, and the
 ' Earth quaked so that it was a very great
 ' trembling (a trembling of God.) And the
 ' Watchmen of *Saul* in *Gibeab* of *Benjamin*
 ' looked; and behold the multitude melted
 ' away, and they went on, beating down
 ' one another. Then said *Saul* unto the
 ' People that were with him, Number now
 ' and see who is gone from us. And when
 ' they had numbred, behold *Jonathan* and
 ' his Armour-bearer were not there. And
 ' *Saul* said unto *Abiath*, Bring hither the
 ' Ark of God; (for the Ark of God was at
 ' that time with the Children of *Israel*.) And
 ' it came to pass that while *Saul* talked un-
 ' to the Priest, that the noise that was in the
 ' Host of the Philistines went on, and in-
 ' creased; and *Saul* said unto the Priest,
 ' withdraw thine hand. And *Saul* and all
 ' the

' the People that were with him assembled
 ' themselves, and they came to the Battel:
 ' and behold every mans Swords was against
 ' his fellow, and there was a great discomfi-
 ' ture. Moreover the Hebrews that were
 ' with the Philistines before that time, which
 ' went up with them into the Camp from
 ' the Countrey round about, even they also
 ' turned to be with the Israelites that were
 ' with *Saul* and *Jonathan*. Likewise all
 ' the men of *Israel* which had hid themselves
 ' in Mount *Ephraim* when they heard that
 ' the Philistines fled, even they also follow-
 ' ed hard after them in the Battel. So the
 ' Lord saved *Israel* that day: and the Bat-
 ' tel passed over unto *Beth-haven*. This
 ' was about the year of the World, 2940.
 ' And *Josephus* thus describes this Battel; The
 ' Philistines had pitched their Tents on an
 ' pointed Rock which extended it self in
 ' length with three Angles, and was on each
 ' side begirt with a Bank, like a Wall or
 ' Fortification against the incursion of their
 ' Enemies; The place was fortified by Na-
 ' ture so that no man might ascend or attack
 ' them without much hazard; yet only *Jo-*
 ' *nathan* and his Armour-bearer, climbing
 ' upon their Hands and Feet invaded their
 ' Camp, and slew about twenty of them
 ' which

which filled their whole Army with terror and amazement, who throwing away their arms, fled again. Others being ignorant who were their Friends or Foes, invaded one another as Enemies, for imagining with themselves that only two Hebrews durst never ascend and enter their Camp, they address themselves to their mutual murder and slaughter, so that some of them were slain, others fled to escape the Sword, and fell headlong down the Rocks; The terrible trembling and quaking of the Earth at the same time, being doubtless very contributory to their destruction.

XII. A fourth terrible Earthquake happened from an immediate Divine Power, in the days of *Uzziah* King of *Judah*, of whom we read in the 2 *Chronicles* 26. (and this Earthquake is likewise mentioned by the Prophets *Amos* and *Zachariah*) 'And *Uzziah* did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. And he sought God in the days of *Zachariah* who had Understanding in the Visions of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper. And he went forth and Warred against the Philistines, and God helped him against them, and against the *Ara-*
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'*bians*, and the *Ammorites* gave him gifts, and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of *Egypt*, for he strengthened himself exceedingly. Moreover *Uzziah* had an Host of fighting men, and the whole number of the Fathers of the mighty men of valour, were two thousand and six hundred. And under their hand was an Army, three hundred thousand, and seven thousand and five hundred, that made War with mighty power to help the King against the Enemy. 'But when he was strong his heart was lifted up to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the Temple of the Lord to burn Incense upon the Altar of Incense. And *Azariah* the Priest went in after him, and with him fourscore Priests of the Lord that were valiant men: and they withstood *Uzziah* the King, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee *Uzziah* to burn Incense unto the Lord; but to the Priests the Sons of *Aaron* that are consecrated to burn Incense: Go out of the Sanctuary, for thou hast trespassed, neither shall it be for thine honour from the Lord God. Then *Uzziah* was wrath, and had a Censer in his hand to burn Incense, and while he
was

‘ was wrath with the Priests, the Leprosie
 ‘ even rose up in his Forehead before the
 ‘ Priests in the House of the Lord from be-
 ‘ side the Incense Altar. And *Azariah* the
 ‘ Chief Priest, and all the Priests looked up-
 ‘ on him, and behold he was Leprous in his
 ‘ Forehead and they thrust him out from
 ‘ thence, yea he himself hastened also to go out
 ‘ because the Lord had smitten him. And
 ‘ *Uzziah* the King was a Leper unto the
 ‘ Day of his Death.

Now though here is no mention made of the Earthquake that happened in his Reign, which is recorded by *Amos* and *Zachariah* as aforesaid, particularly by the last in Chapter 14. And ye shall see like as ye fled before the Earthquake in the days of *Uzziah*; yet *Josephus* in his History of the Jews makes it very evident that it was at this time, and upon this occasion; *Uzziah*, says he, upon a certain solemn Feast day, wherein all the People were assembled together, attired himself in the High Priests Vestments, and entred into the Temple to offer Sacrifice unto God upon the Golden Altar, notwithstanding the High Priest *Azariah*, accompanied with fourscore Priests prohibited the same, telling him, that it

was

was not lawful for him to Sacrifice, since it was only allowed to those that were of the Posterity of the High Priest *Aaron*, whilst after this manner *Azariah* expostulated with him, commanding him to go out of the Temple, and not to invade the Ordinances of God; The King waxed wrath, and threatned to take his life from him, unless he kept himself quiet. Whereupon there fell a great Trembling and Earthquake, and the Temple cleft in twain, and a great light of the Sun entred thereinto, and reflected on the Kings Face in such manner that all his body was covered with a Leprosy: And before the City, in a place called *Eroge*, the half of a Mountain that stood to the Eastward brake and fell, and rolled and removed for the space of four Furlongs, toward the Oriental Mountain where it rested; So that the publick ways were stopt and choaked up, and the Kings Gardens of Pleasure were wholly ruined and disfigured. When the Priests beheld the Kings Face covered with a Leprosie, they told him what inconvenience had happened to him, and enjoined him to depart out of the City, according to the custom of men that were polluted; Whereupon he wholly confused at so grievous an accident, and having no farther

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courage

courage to reply, obeyed the commandment that was given him, enduring a pitiful and lamentable punishment for being proud and presumptuous, in committing such Impiety against God. Finally he died through grief and discontent, and was Buried in his own Garden. In the year of the World, 3194.

XIII. The next Earthquake that we read of, is that which happened at the death of our blessed Lord and Saviour, and was a very convincing demonstration of his Deity and that he was the Son of God. As we find in *St. Matthew 27*. 'Now from the sixth hour there was Darkness over all the Land until the ninth hour. Jesus when he had cried again, gave up the Ghost. And behold the Vail of the Temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the Earth did quake, and the Rocks rent. And the Graves were opened, and many Bodies of Saints which slept arose. And came out of the Graves after his Resurrection, and went into the Holy City and appeared unto many. Now when the Centurion and they that were with him watching Jesus, saw the Earthquake and those things that were done, they fear-

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ed greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

And these prodigious effects that were produced upon our Saviour's Crucifixion, were acknowledged and attested as well by Heathens as Christians. At the time of his Death a very great darkness happened in the Day time, which continued from six a Clock till nine, and yet there was no Eclipse of the Sun, for it was at a Full Moon; so that it was Miraculous, and contrary to the Order of Nature, and only by the immediate Power of God, who deprived the Sun of its Light for that space of time. And therefore *Dionysius* the Arcopagite being that Day in *Athens*, and seeing the Sun so darkened, and also knowing, as a Man learned in the course of the Heavens, that such an Eclipse must needs be contrary to the Rule of Nature, spake with a loud voice, saying, Either the World is at an end or the God of Nature Suffers.

We likewise read of another Supernatural Earthquake at the Resurrection of Christ *St. Matthew 28*. 'In the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn toward the first day of the Week, came *Mary Magdalen* and the other *Mary* to see the Sepulchre. And behold there was a great Earthquake;

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for

for the Angel of the Descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the Stone from the Door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like Lightning, and his Raiment white as Snow. And for fear of him, the Keepers did shake, and became as dead men. This was in the year of the World 4036.

XIV. Lastly, We read of two Earthquakes in the Acts of the Apostles, which can be attributed to no other cause but that of the Power of God, for the confirmation of the Gospel, and the Resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The first is in *Acts 4. 31*. 'And when they had prayed the Earth was shaken where the Apostles were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness. The second is in *Acts 17*. 'And at Midnight *Paul* and *Silas* Prayed and Sang Praises to God, and the Prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great Earthquake, so that the Foundations of the Prison were shaken; and immediately all the Doors were opened, and every ones Bands were loosed. And the Keeper of the Prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the Prison Doors open, he

he drew out his Sword and would have Killed himself, supposing that the Prisoners had been fled. But *Paul* cried with a loud voice saying, Do thy self no harm; for we are all here. Then he called for a Light, and sprang in and came trembling and fell down before *Paul* and *Silas*. And brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? and they said believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved and thy House. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his House. And he took them the same hour in the Night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized he and all his straightway. And when he had brought them into his House, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his House. This was in the 55 year after our Saviours Incarnation.

XV. These are all the Earthquakes that we find mentioned in Holy Scripture, to have actually happened, but there are others spoken of, which may be termed Metaphorical Earthquakes, and may signify great Alterations and Commotions in the several States and Kingdoms of the World; wherein, by the shaking, moving, removing, breaking down and dissolving the

Earth, we may understand the Inhabitants of the Earth, and the punishments that God would inflict upon them for their repeated Sins and Provocations; such as these we find *Isaiab* threatening the Nation of the Jews withal, in the 29th Chapter of that Prophecy. 'Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of Hosts with Thunder, and with Earthquakes, and great noise, with Storm and Tempest, and the flame of devouring Fire. And in *Chapter* 24. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the Pit: and he that cometh out of the midst of the Pit shall be taken in the snare, for the Windows from on high are open, and the Foundations of the Earth do shake. The Earth is utterly broken down, the Earth is clean dissolved, the Earth is moved exceedingly. The Earth shall reel too and fro like a Drunkard, and shall be removed like a Cottage, and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and shall fall and not rise again.

XVI. And our blessed Saviour foretelling the destruction of the Temple, and what great Earthquakes shall be before it, and of the Signs of his coming to Judgment. *St. Mat. 24.* he says; 'And ye shall hear of Wars

Wars and Rumours of Wars, For Nation shall rise against Nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom; and there shall be Famines, and Pestilences, and Earthquakes, in divers places, and the Sun shall be darkened, and the Moon shall not give her Light, and the Stars shall fall from Heaven, and the Powers of the Heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of Man, and he shall send his Angels with a great sound of a Trumpet, and they shall gather together his Elect from the four Winds, from one end of Heaven to the other.

XVII. Such Metaphorical Earthquakes are those thought to be, which are Prophesied of in several places of the Revelations, as *Chapter* 6. 'And I beheld when the Lamb had opened the sixth Seal, and lo, there was a great Earthquake, and the Sun became black as Sack-cloth of Hair, and the Moon became as Blood. And the Stars of Heaven fell unto the Earth, even as the Fig-tree casteth her untimely Figs, when she is shaken of a mighty Wind. And the Heaven departed as a Scroll when it is rolled together, and every Mountain and Island were moved out of their places. And the Kings of the Earth, and the great

men, and the rich men, and the chief Captains, and the mighty Men, and every Bondman, and every Freeman hid themselves in the Dens, and in the Rocks of the Mountains; And said to the Mountains and Rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the Face of him that sitteth on the Throne, and from the Wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of his Wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand. So in Chapter 8. And the Angel took the Censer and filled it with Fire of the Altar, and cast it into the Earth: and there were Voices, and Thundrings, and Lightnings, and an Earthquake. And again in Chapter 11. And they heard a great Voice from Heaven saying unto the Witnesses, Come up hither, and they ascended up to Heaven in a Cloud, and their Enemies beheld them. And the seventh Angel sounded, and there were great Voices in Heaven saying, The Kingdoms of this World are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall Reign forever and ever. And the four and twenty Elders which sate before God on their Seats, fell upon their Faces and worshipped God, saying, We give thee thanks O Lord God Almighty, which art and

wast,

wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great Power and hast Reigned, ver. 18. And the Nations were angry, and thy Wrath is come, and the time of the Dead that they should be Judged, and that thou shouldest give reward to thy Servants the Prophets, and to the Saints and them that fear thy name small and great, and shouldest destroy them which destroy the Earth. And the Temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in his Temple the Ark of his Testament; and there were Lightnings, and Voices, and Thundrings, and an Earthquake, and great Hail. Likewise in Chapter 16. And the seventh Angel poured his Vial into the Air, and there was a great Earthquake, and there came a great Voice out of the Temple of Heaven from the Throne, saying, It is done. And there were Voices, and Thunders, and Lightnings, and there was a great Earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the Earth, so mighty an Earthquake and so great. And the great City was divided into three parts, and the Cities of the Nation fell, and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the Cup of

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the

the Wine of the fierceness of his Wrath. And every Island fled away, and the Mountains were not found. And there fell upon Men a great Hail out of Heaven, every Stone about the weight of a Talent: and men blasphemed God because of the Plague of the Hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. These and such other Scriptures may denote the future Calamities that will befall the Inhabitants of the Earth about the end of the World, and do also demonstrate the great power and almighty of Almighty God, who as *Job* saith *Chapter 9*. 'Is wise in Heart, and mighty in Strength, who removeth the Mountains, and overturneth them in his anger. Who shaketh the Earth out of her place, and the Pillars thereof tremble

XVIII. Having given an account of the Supernatural and Metaphorical Earthquakes recorded in Holy Writ; I shall now relate those that are mentioned by other Historians of the former and latter Ages, and likewise of some of the Consequents which have succeeded them as to Wars, Pestilence, Famines and other dreadful Calamities, and were judged to be the effects of them; wherein I shall be obliged to repeat some of those already published in a

Book

Book called, surprizing Miracles of Nature, &c.

XIX. Before the birth of Saviour *Plato* mentions a wonderful Earthquake, whereby in a Day and a Night a vast Island without the Streights of *Gibraltar* called *Atlantis*, and bigger than *Asia* and *Africa* together, was wholly overwhelmed, and afterward covered by a great Inundation of Waters, insomuch that on the *Atlantick* Ocean for a great while after no Ship could Sail, by reason that the same huge Sea by resolution of the Earth of that mighty Island was all turned into Mud. He also Writes, that by another terrible Earthquake the Continent of *Africa* was rent asunder, from *Europe* and *Asia*, as it is at this day, being now only connected by a little Neck of Land at the Red Sea. The famous Isle of *Sicily* was likewise formerly a part of *Italy*, and by an Earthquake divided from it. And our Island of *Great Britain* is supposed to be broken off from the Continent of *France* by that means. *Herodotus* saith that *Egypt* in ancient time was a Gulph of the Sea, and by an Earthquake made a dry Land. The River *Indus* in *Asia* which receives fifteen others Rivers into it, altered its Channel and the neighbouring Country was turned into

into

into a Wilderness by a lamentable Earthquake. Before the Peloponesian, or Civil Wars among the Grecians, one of their Islands called *Delphos* famous for the Oracle and Temple of *Apollo* situated therein, was wholly ruined by an Earthquake, which was thought to portend those remarkable alterations which soon after happened in Greece. A little before the Wars between the *Lacedemonians* and the *Ilota*, who were their Slaves and Bondmen in the Countrey of *Laconia*, there happened in the City of *Sparta* a most terrible and fearful Earthquake, for the Earth in many places of the Countrey opened and fell in as into a bottomless Pit. The Mountain *Taygetum* shook so terribly that parts of Rocks fell down from it, and *Sparta* with two other Cities with the violence of it were thrown to the ground, five hundred Houses only excepted; And great floods of Water following it, the Countrey was almost utterly destroyed thereby. *Tyre* and *Sidon* suffered exceedingly by Earthquakes, and an infinite number of People were buried under the ruins. And *Strabo* mentions a City situate about *Sidon* that was wholly swallowed up thereby: *Pliny* writes of twelve Cities ruined in one Night, and *St. Augustine*

is cited for what is more strange, That in a famous Earthquake a hundred Cities in *Lybia* were destroyed. In the *Veliternean* Fields the Earth rent asunder in such huge and frightful breaches, that Trees and whole Houses were swallowed up in them, and it Rained Bloud for two whole days together, about which time *Hannibal* received that notable overthrow by *Scipio*, which was the destruction of the famous City and Republick of *Carthage*, and the Conquest of that Country to the Romans. *Tit. Livius. Hist.* *Josephus* records that about twenty nine years before the birth of Christ, there happened a tremendous Earthquake in the Country of *Judea*, whereby divers Beasts were slain, and many People overwhelmed in the ruins of their Houses, and perished, to the number as some write of about thirty thousand.

XX. I now proceed, in a Chronological Order, to relate all the Earthquakes that have happened since our Saviours Birth, as I find them mentioned by several Authors, of which that which happened at his Crucifixion is said to be the greatest that ever was, which shook not only one part of the Earth as in other cases, but the whole World trembled at once, if some famous Authors

Authors are to be credited. In the tenth year of Christ was a great Earthquake in *Cyprus*, that overthrew many Cities, and in his seventeenth year thirteen Cities in *Italy* were destroyed, and the River *Tyber* overflowed *Rome*. The effects whereof were thought to be, That *Sejanus* the Favourite to *Tyberius* was executed for his Ambition, his Son strangled, his Daughter first Drowned by the Hangman, then put to death. *Drusus* is Poisoned; *Tyberius* turn'd Tyrant. In 59. was a terrible Eclipse of the Sun, so that the Stars were seen, *Nero's* Supper was burned with Lightning, and a great Earthquake happened at *Rome*. At this time the Britains slay seventy thousand Romans, and *Suetonius* destroys eighty thousand Britains as he comes from *Anglesey*. *Rome* is fired by *Nero* who rejoices in that Villany, he commits Incest with his own Mother, afterwards Murders and Rips her up to view the place where he lay before he was born. *Cartismunda* Queen of the Britains rejecteth her Husband, the King of *Scots* takes her, and buries her alive.

XXI. In the reign of *Trajan* the Emperor 105. there happened a most terrible Earthquake at *Antioch* which destroyed many

of Cities and People, and extended it self very far; Frightful Lightnings which made the Night as light as Day, preceded with dreadful Thunderbolts that threw down stately buildings, killed many men; Also strong and unusual Storms of Wind, after which were heard great and sudden Noises, the Sea wrought, the Waves swelled, the Earth was shaken, buildings trembled, others were lifted up and fell down, whereby so thick a dust and darkness was raised that People could not see nor hear one another, nor scarcely breath: Trees were pluckt up by the Roots, and multitudes buried in the Ruins of their own Houses. After which came such violent heats that People not being able to indure it, stript and hid themselves naked under ground, where many were famished, by reason the continual shaking of the Earth so distracted them that they durst not come forth for relief. In 107. A very great Earthquake happened in *Asia*, with many Prodigious sights in the Air, as fighting of Men, &c. Another in *Galatia* and *Rome* where Lightning from Heaven consumed the Temple of their Gods, with strong unwonted Winds, and horrible Noises in the Earth. In 120. A great Earthquake in *Nice*; and two terrible ones

ones in *Palestina*. Milk in a Prodigious manner rained in *Rome*, and a great Fire destroyed two hundred and forty Houses. In 162. A very great Earthquake in *Bithynia*; The Waves of the Mediterranean Seas in a Calm elevated themselves to the top of a Mountain far distant from it, and cast the foam a great way upon the main Land. At this time *Mogul* King of *Scots* growing odious to the Nobility for his Tyranny they Murder him. *Smyrna* in *Asia* is quite destroyed. The Emperor *Commodus* groweth ridiculous, and the People taking notice thereof, he executed many of them, he is strangled by *Martia* his Concubine, and *Pertinax* succeeding, after having Reigned only eighty seven days is slain by the Souldiers.

XXII. In 244. The Sun was totally Eclipsed, and there was so horrid an Earthquake, the Earth gaped so extreemly that certain Cities, together with their People, were swallowed up, and exceeding great darkness happened for many days together. Now the tenth Persecution began wherein one hundred forty four thousand Christians were put to Death in *Egypt* and seventy thousand banished, and many burned in an House in *Nicomedia*. In the year 300. there

there were great Earthquakes, by one whereof thirteen Cities in *Campania* were overthrown, and another in *Asia*. A hand was seen in the Church of *Lateran* in *Rome* without a Body, which in the sight of many men writ upon the Wall these words, '*Hodie venenum in Ecclesia infusus*. To day is Poison poured into the Church; Which was thought to intend the extraordinary indulgence of *Constantine* the Great, and first Christian Emperor upon the Bishops, and his heaping Honours and Estates upon them, whereby they degenerated from their Primitive simplicity and humility. Soon after many Cities in the East fell to the ground by an Earthquake, and *Neo-Cæsarea* was overturned and all its Inhabitants perished, except such as were saved by the Bishop in the Church. *Dyracchium* was demolished by an Earthquake, and *Rome* trembled for three Days and Nights successively, and *Antioch* was indangered by an Earthquake of a whole years continuance. *Rhodes* and *Sicily* were likewise endamaged thereby, and likewise *Cilicia*, and indeed it was so general that all *Europe* and *Asia* were shaken at once.

XXIII. In 366. in the reign of *Julian* the Emperor, who was first a Christian and after-

afterward revolted to Paganism, for which he was named the Apostate, and became a bitter Enemy to the Christians, and in despite and contempt of our blessed Saviour, who had Prophesied that the Temple of *Jerusalem* should be destroyed and never rebuilt, He impiously resolved to invalidate the same, and designed to build it Magnificently with excessive cost and charges, committing the care thereof to one *Alypius*, who did vigorously apply himself to the Work, being assisted therein by the Governour of the Province. But there brake out dreadful Balls of Fire near the Foundation of the Walls, which with their frequent Irruptions, made the Place unapproachable, several Workmen being consumed by the Fire, and in this manner a full period was put to their further proceeding therein; But *Niciphorus Calistus* gives a more large and full Narrative thereof as followeth. The Jews, saith he, having got together as many as were skillful in the Art of Building, and having provided Materials for it, and fully cleansed the place, they prepared Spades made of Silver, their charges being allowed out of the publick stock: with such Earnestness and Alacrity did they labour herein, that the very Women carried

away

away the Rubbish in their Laps, and whatsoever Jewels, or precious Ornaments they had, they expended on the business. When they had digged up the remainders of the old Building from the lowest Foundations, and had cleared the ground, so that 'there was not a stone left upon a stone, according to our Blessed Lords Prediction, The next day, coming to the place, there was a great Earthquake, insomuch that the stones were cast out of the Foundation, so that many of the Jews were slain, who either came to see the work, or had the oversight thereof. The Publick buildings which were nearest the Temple, were likewise loosned, and falling down with great violence, buried those who were in them in their ruins; some who attempted to fly away, were found half dead; others lost their Legs, Arms, Hands, and other Members, according as the force of that sudden accident seized upon them. The Earthquake was scarce over, but those who remained fell to work again. But when they attempted it the second time, sudden flashes of Fire violently issued out of the Foundations, and other Fire fell furiously from Heaven, and destroyed more than before, consuming to Ashes the Hammers, Graving Tools, Saws, Hatchets, Axes,

Axes, and all other Instruments which the Workmen had brought for their Service; the flames continuing a whole day together. When *Cyril*, who was at that time Bishop of *Jerusalem*, saw these things, he considered in his mind the words of the Prophet *Daniel*, to which Christ also had set his Seal in the Holy Gospel, and then told them all; 'That now was the time, when the Oracle of our Saviour had its accomplishment, which said, That a Stone should not be left upon a Stone in the Temple; which when he had said, a dreadful Earthquake assailed the remaining Foundations, and casting out all the rest of the Stones, dispersed them abroad, and a fearful Storm arose, which whirled in the Air many Thousand Bushels of Lime and Plaister, and sudden flames of Fire flashing from beneath, burnt up in a moment an innumerable Company of People, who were either labouring in the work, or coming to behold it. Thus did the wicked *Fulian* fulfil Christ's Predictions concerning *Jerusalem*, by the same means whereby he designed to make them void.

XXIV. In 367. in the Reign of *Valens* and *Valentinian* Emperors of *Rome*, there happen'd such horrible Earthquakes throughout

put the Western Empire, as neither True Historians have related the like, nor Fables themselves represented to us. A little after the day dawned there was a great Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, which was followed by such a dreadful trembling of the Earth, that the Sea also was shaken therewith, and deserted the shore and its ancient bounds for a great space, and the depths of its Channels were discovered; multitudes of Fish were seen to stick in the Mud, and many plowed Fields became Navigable, the inequality of the Seas bottom appeared, here Hills, and there Vallies which had never before seen the Sun, since, at the original of all things, they were first overwhelmed with the Floods. Many Ships were left on the dry ground, and swarms of People flew thither to catch Fish; when suddenly the Sea, as disdainng to be imprisoned, returned to its former station with such impetuosity, that it over-ran its former bounds, and with the fury thereof overthrew a multitude of Towns and Houses, with many thousands of People, and great numbers of Ships were overwhelmed, some of which, with the violence thereof, were blown upon the tops of Houses. Soon after a great Rebellion happened, and the Northern

Northern Nations came in like a Flood, and over-ran the Roman Empire, which was thought to be presaged by this lamentable accident.

XXV. In 430. A great Earthquake raged in divers places, and overturned many Cities, the Wall of *Constantinople*, though but new built, it threw to the ground with 57 Turrets; Also Stones of great bulk, lately placed there, fell down, many Towns, were ruined. Yea some Authors affirm that it was so terrible as to affect almost the whole World, the Earth gaped and swallowed up many Villages; Fountains were dried up, and Waters brake forth in places formerly dry. Great Trees were torn up by the Roots; Heaps of Earth were so shaken together that they were raised into Mountains. The Sea threw up dead Fishes, many Islands were sunk and overwhelmed, Ships sailing on the Sea were suddenly left on dry ground. In short many places of *Bythinia*, the *Hellepont*, and both the *Phrygia's* were grievously distressed thereby. This disaster continued six months without intermission, and the People of *Constantinople* not daring to stay in the City for fear of the fall of their Houses, continued together with their good Emperor, and their Patriarch,

march, in the Fields, instant in Prayers to the Almighty for the removal of so dreadful a Judgment. After the danger was over, the Emperor repaired the Walls of *Constantinople* which were much endamaged thereby. This was judged a Sign of the Death of *Theodosius* which soon after followed, and of several changes which happened at the same time in divers parts of the World.

XXVI. In 454. A great Earthquake at *Rome*, another at *Vienna*, Wolves and other Beasts wander all the year through the City and devour men. An Earthquake in *Russia*, and at *Constantinople*, with two wonderful Blazing Stars. About this time the *Brittains* beat the *Saxons*, and drive them into the Isle of *Thanet*. The *Jews* Rebel in *Egypt* and Kill two hundred thousand Men, and forced those that survived to eat the dead. They slay two hundred and forty thousand in *Cyprus*, and at last are slain themselves. A great Famine in *Constantinople*. The *Goths* wast *Thrace*, *Thessaly* and *Epirus*: *Gratian* killeth thirty five thousand *German*s; *Maximian* slayeth *Gratian* treacherously, and possesseth *Britain*, *France*, *Spain* and *Africk*. The Temple of *Apollo Daphneus* is burnt. The Heathen Temples are shut up by the Christian Empe-

Emperors, and their Idols destroyed. In 458. A great Earthquake happened at *Antioch* which the Citizens had sad cause to remember. Before it began some of the Inhabitants were seized with an extraordinary madness, such as seemed to exceed the fury of Wild Beasts, and to be the presage of that Calamity which followed soon after; For about the Fourth hour of the night in *September*, almost all the buildings of the new City were overturned, which was well peopled and none of it forsaken or empty, being curiously built by the Magnificence of divers Emperors, who strove to exceed each other in the adornment of it. The first and second Fabricks in the Palace were also cast down, the rest standing together with a Bath, which having formerly been neglected now when by the Earthquake the rest were choaked up stood the Citizens in very good stead.

XXVII. In the first Century was a terrible Earthquake in *Arabia*, and another in *Palestina* and a third at *Constantinople* for six weeks together. It rained Blood in *Piedmont*, and at *York* the Fountains ran Blood: a Dragon and many Serpents were seen in the River *Tyber*. After this so terrible a Famine raged in *Brittain* that the People assembled.

sembled in great numbers to cast themselves into the Sea; A Plague so great in *Rome* that 800 men fell dead in an hour in the time of Procession. *Brunchild*, a Daughter of *France*, being found guilty of the death of ten Kings; She is tyed by the Hair of the Head and the Arms to Wild Horses, and torn to pieces. The Jews and Samaritanes Persecute the Christians, and burn their Churches in *Cesaria*.

XXVIII. In the sixth seventh and eighth Centuries, an Earthquake at *Antioch*; Another in *Palestina*, another in *England* and *Normandy*; a fiery Dragon was seen in the Skies, and divers other dreadful Prodigies. About the same time there was a violent Earthquake at *Constantinople* which lasted many days, and every hour the City suffered extraordinary shocks. Many houses were thrown down, but the People betook themselves to Prayer, Fasting and Repentance, and the Almighty had compassion on them; Many Cities in the East were ruined by it, and the City of *Alexandria* was sore shaken therewith, which was the more astonishing because it seldom happens in those parts. Some years after, *Constantinople* was again shaken so violently that not only the Walls and Churches but all *Greece* trembled

trembled therewith. The Saracens about this Age, Besieged *Constantinople* for seven years and at last thirty thousand of them were slain. The King of *Scots* is slain by the *Picts*. A Pestilence in *Constantinople* for three years, which devoured so many, that the living were not sufficient to bury the Dead. *Alphonfus* King of *Portugal* killeth seventy thousand Moors and taketh *Lisbon* from them. The *Danes* Invade *England*, but all of them almost perished. The *Brittains* Invade *Scotland*, *Constantine* their King was killed. The Saracens take *Armoricum* and many Captives; *Lothair* Wars with his Brethren, and an hundred thousand men are slain. In 801. while *Charles* the Great was in *Italy* there was an Earthquake with great noises, which shook all *France* and *Germany*, but especially *Italy*; it overthrew several Towers and even Mountains; and the Church of *St. Paul* at *Rome* was destroyed by it, whereupon Pope *Leo III.* appointed solemn Feasts and Processions. These Prodigies were followed with furious Tempests and Contagious Diseases which affected the Cattel throughout *Italy*; so that most of their Beasts died. A great Famine and Pestilence in *France*. The King of *England* is slain by the East Angles. The

Danes

Danes enter the *Thames* with two hundred and fifty Ships, they take *Canterbury* and *London*, and expel the King.

XXIX. In the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Centuries, an Earthquake happened in *Scotland*, another in *France*, a very great one in *Asia*, and several terrible ones with mighty Whirlwinds in *Germany*; Also a great Earthquake in *England*, where five Suns appear at once, and afterward four Moons at once. Horrible groans and noises in the ground at *Rome*. *Syracuse* in *Sicily* was extreemly shaken with an Earthquake; A wonderful Hail at *Oxford* in *England*, with many other terrible appearances, as Fire rising out of the River *Rhyne*, and many places in *Germany* the Sun appears for certain days as if it bled. In the Reign of King *William* the Conqueror. 1086. happened an Earthquake with a dreadful noise. In 1100 in the Reign of King *Henry I.* the Earth moved with so great violence in *England*, that many buildings were shaken down; and *Malmesbury* the Historian writes, That the House wherein he satc was lifted up with a double remove, and at the third time settled again in its proper place. In divers places a hideous noise was heard, and the Earth through several rifts cast forth

Fire for many days together, which neither by Water, nor any other means could be suppress. In *Lumbardy* in *Italy* about the same time was an Earthquake which lasted above six weeks, and removed a Town from the place where it stood a great distance. *Matthew Paris* mentions another Earthquake, and a great Darkeness in *England* about twenty years after; And another in the Reign of King *Henry II.* in the Eastern parts of *England*, which threw down many Persons who were standing or walking, and made the Clocks to strike and Bells to ring in the Steeples. In 1179. on *Christmas* day at *Oxenball* near *Darlington* in the County of *Durham*, the Earth was lifted up aloft like a Tower, and so continued all that day, as it were immoveable till Evening, and then fell with so horrible a noise that it affrighted the Inhabitants thereabout, and the Earth swallowing it up, made in the same place three Pits of a wonderful depth, which were afterward called *Hell-Kettles*. It is reported that Bishop *Tonstal* put a Goose into one of these Pits, having first given her a mark, and the same Goose was found in the River *Tees*, which if true, these Kettles have passages under Ground,

XXX.

XXX. In 1180. an Earthquake ruined a great part of the City of *Naples*. Great Stones were Rained from Heaven, and a Hill of an immense magnitude is removed out of his place. The City of *Catania* in *Sicily* is destroyed with nineteen thousand People by an Earthquake. A multitude of Snakes were seen at *Rome*, a fiery Dart ran up and down in the Heavens, Women appeared in the Heavens of admirable shapes to the great amazement of the Spectators. About this time the Hungarians Invade the Empire of *Germany*, but are reconciled. The Bishop of *Salzburg* calls an hundred thousand Hungarians into *Bavaria*, which are all slain there and the Emperors Eyes pluckt out. A great Famine in *Germany* and *France*. The Prussians Invade *Poland*, and fifteen thousand of them are slain, and twenty thousand made Prisoners. The Saxons Rebel against the Emperor, twenty six thousand of them are Drowned in a Pitfall by the Stratagem of two Bishops in *Holland* as they came against the Earl of *Flanders*. *Gonsalvus* King of *Spain* Poisons King *Sancho* with an Apple. The Danes Land in *Scotland* and waite divers places, the Scots put them to flight. They Land in *Kent* and spoil the Isle of *Thanet*. The King

of *Denmark* is slain by one of his Servants; The *Danes* being defeated at *Oxford* fly to the Church, and are there burnt. *Otho* Emperor of *Germany* is Poisoned with a pair of Gloves. *Pedro* King of *Spain* taketh *Oson*, and killeth thirty thousand Moors. The English Invade *Normandy*. *Harold* Earl of *Caithnes* in *Scotland* cuts out the Bishops Tongue for which the King puts out his Eyes, hangs him, and causeth his Male Children to be Golt. The K. of *Ioonium* is swallowed up by an Earthquake, and in *England* many Buildings are thrown down by the same means, amongst which the Cathedral Church of *Lincoln* was rent in pieces.

XXXI. In 1222. There were such Earthquakes in *Italy* and *Lombardy*, that the Cities and Towns were forsaken, and the People kept abroad in the Fields in Tents; many Houses and Churches were thrown down, much people thereby crushed to Death. The Earth trembled twice a day in *Lombardy* for fourteen days together; besides two Cities in *Cyprus*, and the City of *Brescia* were this year destroyed by Earthquakes. In 1176. About the time that *Adrian* the Fourth was made Pope, was a dreadful Earthquake at *Millain*, and all the

the Country round about. A noise like Trumpets in the Air was heard in *Italy*, where was likewise a great Earthquake, another in *England*; and a third in *Germany*. The Consequents were thought to be, the slaying of two hundred thousand Moors by the Spaniards about that time. The Pope giveth the Kingdom of *England* to *Philip* King of *France*, Excommunicating King *John*. The French strive to take possession of it, but the Flemish with the English take three hundred sail of Ships from them, and burn an hundred more. The King of *Aragon* is slain. The King of *Bulgaria* plucks out the Emperors Eyes. The Infidels take *Jerusalem* and slay many Prisoners. The Turks win all the lower *Asia* from the Greeks. The Pope is slain by a Fall. The Emperor Kills fourteen thousand Bohemians. The King of *England* brings the Welsh under intire subjection.

XXXII. Remarkable is what is related by divers Authors, which happened in a Town called *Hamel* in the Dutchy of *Brunswick* in *Germany* in 1248. June 26. This Town being very grievously troubled with Rats and Mice, there came to them a Pled Coat Piper, who agreed with the Burgers that for so much Money he would quite

clear them from those Vermine, nor would he demand it till a year and a day after. The agreement being made, he began to play on his Pipes, going from one Street to another, and all the Rats and Mice followed him, whom he led to a great Lake hard by, where they all went in and were drowned, so that the Town was Infected no more. At the end of the year the Pied Piper returned for his reward. The Burgers put him off with slighthings and neglect, offering him some small matter, which he refusing, and staying some few days in Town; On Sunday Morning at High Mass when most People were at Church, he fell to Play on his Pipes, and began another Tune, whereupon there followed him one hundred and thirty Boys out of the Town to a great Hill called *Koppen*, situate on the Road hard by, when they approached the Mountain, it rent in twain and opening let him and the Children in, and then closed again, so that he nor they were ever seen after. This History is writ and religiously kept by them in their Annals at *Hamel* to this day, is read in their Books, and painted in their Windows, and their Churches; they date their Bills, Bonds and other Instruments in Law, *From the year of the going out of the Children;*

dren; Besides there is a great Pillar of Stone at the Foot of that Hill whereon the Story is Ingraven. It is also observed in the memory thereof, that in the Streets the Children passed out of, no Piper is admitted to live ever since, and if a Bride live in that Street, till she is come out of it no Dancing is to be suffered. *Howel's Epistles, page 272.*

XXXIII. In 1300. When the Turkish Empire began to be considerable, there was such an Earthquake at *Rome* as never was before, and forty eight Earthquakes happened in one year, whereby all *Lombardy* was shaken. A great Earthquake in *London*, which was especially felt on the Banks of the River *Thames*, which shook and threw down many buildings, and was the more terrible because the Western parts are less accustomed to Earthquakes, and there was little ebbing or flowing of the Sea observable as at other times, for about three months after. Another Earthquake did much mischief about *Bath* and *Bristol*, and two more happened in *England* not long after. Also two in *France* and one in *Savoy*. An Earthquake at *Rome* in the time of Pope *Boniface* the eight, who fainted away for fear, and afterward published a Jubilee.

In 1348. a terrible Earthquake happened at *Constantinople*, which indured six weeks, and reached in the extent of it as far as *Hungary* and *Italy*; Twenty six Cities were overthrown by it; Mountains were torn up by the Roots, and several Men, Women and Beasts by that strong Exhalation were turned into Statues of Salt. In *Persia* five hundred Houses were thrown by an Earthquake in the City of *Lair*. In *England* for six hours together the Sun appeared as Bloud. In *Germany* was a very great Earthquake. Grasshoppers cover *Switzerland* like Snow. At *Oxford* the Image of a Head spake thus, *Caput decidetur, Caput Elevabitur, Pedes elevabuntur super Caput*; *The Head shall be cut off; The Head shall be lift up; The Feet shall be elevated above the Head.* Which was thought to presage the Deposing and Death of King *Richard II.* At this time fifty thousand Christians were slain by the Turks in the Plains of *Casovia*. *Scotland* is wasted by the English. The Emperor *Sigismund* executed thirty two of the Nobles in *Hungary*. The Pope is imprisoned by the French King. A great Battel between King *Henry the V.* and the French, wherein they lost twenty thousand men, ten thousand being killed upon the place, and as many made

made Prisoners. The French burn *Rye* and *Hastings* in *Suffex*, and Plunder the Isle of *Wight*. In *Caunt* five thousand Houses were burnt; and seventeen Towns drowned in *Flanders*. A very great Earthquake in *France*, and Grasshoppers destroy almost every green thing there. The World was shook with terrible Earthquakes, Cities, Castles, Villages and a multitude of People were swallowed up in the Caverns of the Earth: Many at *Liege* destroyed by Thunder, while they were paying their Veneration to the Saints for safety. Mountains were cleft, and Rivers were dried up.

XXVIV. In 1456. There arose upon the Sea of *Ancona* in *Italy*, together with a thick Gloomy Cloud that extended above two Miles, a Tempest of Wind, Water, Fire, Lightning and Thunder, which peircing to the most deep Abysses of the Sea, forced up the Waves with a most dreadful fury, and carried all before it upon the Land, which caused so horrible an Earthquake some time after, that the Kingdom of *Naples* was almost ruined, and all *Italy* carried the dismal marks of it; A Million of Houses and Castles were buried in their own ruins, and above thirty thousand People crushed to pieces, and a huge Moun-

tain overturned into the Lake *de la Gardi*. Soon after was a dreadful Earthquake in *Millain* another in *Hungary*. In *Poland* there was seen (saith my Author) an Image of Christ crucified with a Sword to pass along the Air from West to South for two hours. In *Germany* Hailstones fell as big as Goose Eggs. At this time the *Hungarians* defeat the *Turks*, and take thirty thousand Captives from them. The Spanish Inquisition is first instituted in *Castile* against the *Moors* and *Jews*. The *Jews* are expelled *Spain*. The *Turks* expel the Christians from *Adrianople*. King *Henry VI.* is taken Prisoner at *North-hampton*. Great Inundations in *England*. The Sun is darkned without an Ecclipse.

XXXV. In 1509. Sept. 14. There happened a terrible Earthquake at *Constantinople* and in the Countrey thereabout, *Bajazet II.* being Emperor, by the violence whereof a great part of that Imperial City with many stately Buildings both Publick and Private were overthrown; and thirteen thousand People overwhelmed and slain; The terror thereof was so great that the People generally forsook their Houses, and lay abroad in the Fields; Yea *Bajazet* himself, though very Aged, and sore troubled with

with the Gout, for fear thereof went from *Constantinople* to *Adrianople*, but finding himself in no more safety there than before, he left the City, and lay abroad in the Fields in his Tent. This Earthquake endured by the space of eighteen days, or as the *Turks* relate, for a month with little intermission; which was then accounted ominous, as portending the miserable Calamities which afterward happened in the *Ottoman* Family. After this Earthquake ensued a great Plague, wherewith *Constantinople* was grievously Visited and almost depopulated; After the Earthquake ceased, the Emperor imployed eighty thousand Men to repair it, who in four months time re-edified the ruins thereof with much Beauty and Magnificence. It is strange to Relate (saith my Author) that in this year 1510, there fell twelve hundred stones from Heaven, some weighing Sixty pound, others more. An Earthquake in *Apulia* whereby above Sixteen thousand Persons were overwhelmed, after which ensued a War betwixt the *French* and the Duke of *Savoy* which devoured above a Million of Men. In *Holland* four hundred and four Parishes are drowned with all their People and Cattel. The *Turks* take *Buda* in *Hungary*. King *Henry*

Henry VIII. writes against the Pope; Cardinal *Woolsey* dies: The *English* Clergy are fined and pay the King an hundred thousand pound for divers Misdemeanors. In 1531. In the City of *Lisbon* in *Portugal* about fourteen hundred Houses were overthrown by an Earthquake, and Six hundred more so sorely shaken that they were ready to fall and many of their Churches were cast to the ground.

XXXVI. In 1538. Mr. *George Sandys* gives the following Relation of a most remarkable Earthquake and Burning which happened near the City *Puteoli* with the new formed Mountain; For the famous Lake *Lucrinus* hard by, extended formerly to the deadly Sulphurous Lake *Avernus*, supposed the entrance into Hell by ignorant Antiquity, where they offered Infernal Sacrifices to *Pluto* their God of Hell, and to the *Manes* or *Ghosts* of their deceased Friends, who were there said to have returned answers to what they have demanded of them: This place is now only a little watry plash choaked up by the horrible and astonishing eruption of a new Mountain, whereof as often as I think, I am apt to give credit to whatsoever is wonderful; For who is there in this place but knows, or who elsewhere

elsewhere will believe, that a Mountain should arise partly out of a Lake, and partly out of the Sea, in one day and anight to such an height, as to contend in altitude with the highest Mountains adjoyning, yet so it was: For Sept. 29. 1538. the Countrey hereabout having for several days before been tormented with perpetual Earthquakes, that no one House was left intire, but all Men expected an immediate ruin; After the Sea had retired two hundred Paces from the Shoar, leaving abundance of Fish and Springs of fresh water rising in the bottom, this Mountain visibly ascended about the second hour of the Night, with an hideous roaring noise, horribly vomiting Stones, and such store of Cinders, as overwhelmed all the buildings thereabout, and the healthful Baths of *Tripurgula* celebrated for so many Ages, consuming the Vines to Ashes, and killing Birds and Beasts; The fearful Inhabitants of *Puteoli* flying away in the dark, with their Wives and Children, naked, defiled, crying out and detesting their Calamities, Manifest mischiefs had they suffered by the *Turks* and *Barbarians*, yet none like that which Nature inflicted. This Mountain is to be seen at this day, the top whereof is above a Mile from the Foundation,

Foundation, the stones upon it are so light and pory, that they will not sink when thrown into Water; when it was newly raised, it had a vast number of Vents or Issues, some of them smoaking and likewise flaming, others disgorging little Rivers of hot water, keeping a dreadful rumbling, and many miserably perished who ventured to go down into the hallowness above; But that hollow on the top is now an Orchard, and the Mountain throughout is bereft of its Terrors, no more smোক, fire or flames issuing therefrom.

XXXVII. In 1571, Feb. 17. A prodigious Earthquake happened in the Eastern Parts of *Herefordshire* near a little Town called *Kinaston*: About Six in the Evening the Earth began to open, and an Hill called *Marcley Hill* with a Rock under it, made at first a mighty bellowing noise which was heard afar off, and then lifted up it self a great heighth and began to travel; bearing along with it the Trees that grew upon it, the Sheepfolds and Flocks of Sheep abiding thereon at the same time; In the place from whence it first moved it left a gaping distance forty Foot wide and eighty Ells long, the whole Field was about twenty Acres. Passing along it overthrew a Chap-
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pel standing in the way, removed an *Ewe-Tree* growing in the Church-yard from the West to East. With the like violence it thrust before it Highways, Houses and Trees, it made Tilled ground Pasture, and again turned Pasture into Village. Having thus walked from *Sunday* in the Evening till *Monday* Noon it then stood still, and moved no more; mounting to an Hill twelve fathoms high. The like prodigy happened about the same time at *Blackmore* in that County, where a Field of three Acres with the Trees and Fences moved from their place, and passed over another Field, travelling in the Highway that goeth to *Herne* and there stayed. A great Earthquake fell out at *Constantinople* about this time, a while before a terrible Fire in that City which burnt the Gaol, and consumed seven hundred Prisoners. An Earthquake and Bowls of Fire in *Garinthia*. The Sun seemed to cleave in sunder. Corn rained from Heaven. An Earthquake and Inundation in *Holland*. At this time was the Sweating Sicknes in *England*. Nine thousand French were slain at *Dreux* in *Normandy*, among whom the King of *Navar*. The Turkish Pyrates carry Six Thousand Captives out of the Isle of *Gaul*, near to *Malta*. A great Plague in
England

England. Very great Thunder and an Earthquake in Spain.

XXXVIII. In 1580. April 6. being Easter Wednesday about six a Clock in the Afternoon happened a great Earthquake in England, which shook all the Houses, Castles and Churches every where as it went, and put them in danger of utter ruin; yet through the Divine Clemency it overthrew few or none, save certain Stones, Chimneys, Walls and Pinacles of high Buildings both in London and divers other places; and a Boy and a Girl being at Sermon among a great number of People at Christ Church in Newgate Street the Boy was killed outright with the fall of a Stone from the Roof of the Church; and the Girl so sore bruised by another that she dyed soon after. At York it made the Bells in the Churches jangle. This Earthquake had such influence upon the mind of the People, "That a Prayer was Published by Queen Elizabeth to be used of all Householdors with their whole Family, every Evening before they went to Bed, that it would please God to turn his wrath from us, threatened in the last terrible Earthquake. In 1581. Josephus Acosta relates, That in Peru in America there happened

happened an Earthquake which removed the City of *Augnanguin* two Leagues from the place where it stood without demolishing it, in regard the Scituation of the whole Countrey was changed. The same Author gives an account of another Earthquake in the same Countrey that reached three hundred Leagues along the Sea-shore, and seventy Leagues in Land; and levelled the Mountains all along as it went, threw down Cities, turned the Rivers out of their Channels, and made an Universal Ravock and confusion. All this he saith was done within the space, of seven or eight Minutes. Some time before this, above forty thousand People perished in an Earthquake about *Paul* and *Naples*.

XXIX. In 1590. The Election of Pope Urban VII. was signalized by an Earthquake which made *Austria*, *Bohemia* and *Moravia* to tremble, and was followed by an extraordinary Dearth; Gregory XIV. quickly succeeded and died in ten months. There was such a Famine and Plague in Italy that year that above threescore thousand Persons died. In 1591. In *St. Michael's* Island in the West Indies, there happened an Earthquake which continued about sixteen days, to the extream terror of the French

French who inhabite there, especially when by the force thereof they perceived the Earth to remove from place to place, and *Villa Franca* their principal Town overthrown, the Ships that then road at Anchor in the Bay, trembled and quaked; insomuch that the People thought the Day of Judgment was come. In 1593. Another terrible Earthquake happened in *Persia*, which overturned three thousand Houses in the City of *Lair* crushing to Death above three thousand Persons in their ruins; yea the Castle though built upon a solid Rock groaned under the like affrighting downfall. In 1614. there was a great Earthquake in *Vercer*, one of the largest of the Islands called *Azores*, belonging to the King of *Portugal*, overturning in the City of *Agra*, eleven Churches, nine Chappels, besides many private Houses: and in the City of *Praga* hardly an house was left standing. Not long after so horrible an Earthquake happened in another of the Islands of *Azores* called *St. Michael* aforementioned, that not far from thence the Sea opened, and thrust forth an Island above a League and half in length at a place where there was above a hundred and fifty Fathom Water.

XL. In 1618. The Town of *Pleurs* in *Switzerland* was overwhelmed by an Earthquake of which we have the following account in the late Travels of a Reverend Divine in that Countrey. This place consisted in about two thousand two hundred Inhabitants and magnificently built, for besides the great Palace of the *Francken* that cost some Millions, there were many other Palaces, erected by several Rich Factors both of *Milan*, and other Parts of *Italy*, who liked the Scituation and Air as well as the freedom of the Government of this place; so they used to come hither during the Heats, and here they gave themselves all the Indulgences that a vast wealth could furnish; By one of the Palaces that was a little distant from the Town, which was not overwhelmed, one may judg of the rest; It was an Out-house of the Family of the *Francken*, and yet it may compare with many Palaces in *Italy*, and certainly House and Gardens could not cost so little as one hundred thousand Crowns. The Voluptuousness of this Place became very crying, and *Madam de Salis* told me, saith my Author, that she often heard her Mother relate some Passages of a Protestant Ministers Sermons, who Preached in a little Church which those of the

the Religion had there, and warned them frequently of the terrible Judgments of God, that were hanging over their heads, and that he believed would suddenly break in upon them. On the 25 of *August* 1618, an Inhabitant came and persuaded them to be gone, for he saw the Mountains cleaving; but he was laughed at for his pains; He had a Daughter whom he prevailed with to leave all and go with him, but when she was gone out of the Town with him, she called to mind that she had not locked the Door of a Room in which she had some things of value, and so she went back to do that, and was buried with the rest; for at the hour of Supper the Hill fell down, and buried the Town and all the Inhabitants, so that none escaped. The fall of the Mountains did so fill the Channels of the River that the first news those of the *Chavennes* had of it, was by the failing of the River, for three or four hours there came not a drop of Water, but the River wrought for itself a new course and returned to them. I could hear no perticular Character of the Man who escaped, so I must leave the secret reason of so singular a preservation to the great discovery at the last day, of those steps of Divine Providence that are now so

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unaccountable. Some of the Family of the *Francken*. got some Miners to work underground to find out the Wealth that was buried in their Palace; for besides their Plate and Furniture, there was a great Cash and many Jewels in the House: the Miners pretended they could find nothing: But they went to their Countrey of *Tirol* and built fine Houses, and a great Wealth appeared, of which no other visible account could be given but this, that they had found some of that Treasure.

XLI. In 1622. Was a great Earthquake in *Italy*; The shape of an Elephant was seen in the Air, and three Suns. Armies fighting, Monstrous births, Waters turned into bloud, unusual and impetuous Tempests which overthrew several Towers. At this time began the third Civil War in *France*, the Prince of *Conde* is taken and shot to Death with a Pistol. The Earls of *Northumberland* and *Westmorland* rebel. The Popish Clergy are expelled *Antwerp* by the People. The Emperor Prohibiteth the Protestant Religion at *Atken*. The Spaniards Invade *Ireland* but are beaten thence. The Turks lose *Alba Regalis* and threescore thousand men. The *Persians* Invade *Babylon* and kill twenty thousand men. The King of

of *France* is slain. Nine hundred thousand Moors are expelled *Spain*. The Hollanders beat the Spaniards in the South Sea. The *Tartars* Invade *Podolia*, they burn four Cities and four hundred Villages, and carry from thence a vast booty. The Jesuits and Papists are expelled the *Netherlands*. In 1627. An Earthquake happened in *England* and a great fiery Beam was seen in the Air in *France*. Six Suns in *Cornwall* at once, and five Moons in *Normandy*. In 1627. July 31. happened an Earthquake in *Apulia* in *Italy*, whereby in the City of *Severine* alone ten thousand Souls were taken out of the World, and in the horror of such infinite ruins, and sepulchre of so many Mortals, a great Bell thrown out of the Steeple by the Earthquake fell so fitly over a Child that it inclosed him, and doing him no harm made a Bulwark for him against any other danger. Strange and wonderful were the Prodigies that were seen in *Germany* both in the Heavens, Earth and Waters, before the beginning of that Bloody War in those Countreys, and which plainly presaged the ensuing miseries and desolations which happened there, and began about 1631. In which year, not long before the troubles of *Naples*, there happened a terrible Earthquake

quake in and about that City; and the Mountain of *Soma* after many terrible bel-lowings, vomited out burning streams of Fire which tumbled into the *Adriatick* Sea; and cast out an huge deal of Ashes. The like happened the year following with great damage and loss to the Neighbouring places both in Houses, People and Cattel. And in *Apulia* seventeen thousand Persons were destroyed by the same.

XLII. In the year 1638. Six Suns were seen at once in *Cornwall*, and several Apparitions of men in the Heavens preparing to fight with each other; Also Navys of Ships were visible in the Sky. The *Scots* at this time make an Insurrection, the King goes in Person to appease them, they renounce the Bishops and Prelacy, and set up Presbytery in *Scotland*. In this year 1638. happened a Terrible Earthquake in the Island of *St. Michael* one of the *Azores*, or *Terceira's* belonging to the Spaniards in the *Atlantic* Ocean Westward. Upon June 26. this Island began universally to quake and tremble, which continued eight days, so that the People leaving the Cities, Towns and Castles, were forced to live in the open Fields: After which this Prodigy succeeded; Six miles distant from the Hill or Pick of

Camerine, at a place called *Ferriera*; where Fishermen with their Boats use to fish in Summer, they at this time caught such a multitude, that no Boat returned with less than Ten Thousand Fish. At this very place in *July* this very year, Fire broke forth with such unexpressible violence, notwithstanding the depth of the Ocean, which had been fathomed one hundred and twenty foot deep, that the very Sea it self was not sufficient to extinguish such mighty flames; The space of this boyling Fire was about two Acres, and the Fire arose with such mighty force, that it reached even to the Clouds, carrying with it Water, Sand, Earth, Stones and much other matter, which like Feather-Beds flew into the Air to the terror of the Beholders afar off, and falling down again into the water, resembled a kind of *Pultis* or *Fruementie*; and had not the Wind by Divine Providence blown off from the Isle into the Sea, and thereby driven back this outrageous Fire, without doubt the whole Countrey had been utterly burnt up and destroyed by this formidable Combustion; soon after it cast forth stones of so vast a bigness, to the height of above three lances, that they seemed rather like entire Mountains than Stones, which in their

their fall meeting and dashing against others they broke into a Thousand pieces, with a terrible noise and rattling, which afterward being taken up mouldred into a black Sand. Moreover out of this vast quantity of matter thrown out, a new Island arose, even in the midst of the deep Ocean. In the beginning it was not above five Acres, but increasing continually in four days after, it took up the length of five mile; so vast a multitude of Fish perished by this burning, that eight Ships of *India* could hardly contain them, and being dispersed about all parts of the Island were gathered together, and buried in deep Ditches by the Inhabitants for eighteen miles round about to prevent any Contagion which might arise from them, but the Sulphur or Brimstone was smelt Twenty four Miles. This year the *Hollanders* beat the *Spanish* Fleet upon the Coast of *England*.

XLIII. The same year 1638, the Learned *Kircherus* made a search and discovery into the burning Mountain of *Vesuvius* in the Kingdom of *Naples*, so famous for fiery irruptions for many Ages, which being one of the most tremendous *Miracles of Nature* I shall relate in his own words; After so great dangers sustained by Sea and Land in

diligently searching out the incredible power of Nature working in Burroughs and Passages under ground, I had a great desire to inform my self concerning *Vesuvius*. I went therefore to *Porticus* (the Porch or Entrance) a Town scituate at the Foot of of the Mountain, where hiring an honest Countreyman for a true and skilful Companion, and Guide in the way, not without a considerable reward, I ascended the Mountain at midnight through difficult, rough, uneven, and steep Passages; when I came to the top or mouth I saw what is horrible to be expressed; I saw it all over of a light Fire with a dreadful combustion, and stench of *Sulphur* and burning *Bitumen*; whereat being astonished, methoughts I beheld the habitation of Hell, wherein nothing seemed to be wanting but the Apparitions of Ghosts, Devils and Damned Spirits; I then observed horrible bellowings and roarings in the Mountain, and unexpressible stink, smoaks mixt with darkish Globes of Fire, which both the bottom and sides of the Mountain continually belched forth from eleven several places, and made me belch and ready to vomit; 'O the depth of the riches of the Wisdom and know-

knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are thy ways! If thou shewest thy power against the the wickedness of mankind in such formidable and potentous Prodigies and Omens of Nature: What shall it be in that last day wherein the Earth shall be destroyed by thy wrath, and the Elements shall melt with fervent heat? In the morning as soon as it was light, that I might with the more diligence search into the Bowels of the Mountain, I chose a place to set my feet secure upon, which was an huge Rock, plain on the top, where taking forth my *Pantometer* (or *Universal Measure*) I took the dimensions of the Mountain, and found by Geometrical Computation, the compass of the Mouth to be almost three hundred paces; The Mountain was every where up & down cragged, and broken, yet no gradual declining, for any passage to the inward parts, but descended in its compass of an equal bigness like a Well, and although the bottom seemed narrower, yet I judged it only to proceed from the exceeding great depth and distance from our sight. In the very middle of the bottom Nature seemed to have made a Shop or Workhouse of Fire with everlasting gushings forth and streamings

streamings of Smoak and Flames, which seem to be employed for boyling of *Sulphur*, *Bitumen* and other Minerals in preparation for deadly ruins and slaughters afterward to be committed, since the Vapours contained therein not having room, endeavoured to free themselves with such great force and violence, accompanied with horrible cracklings and noise, that the Mountain seems to be tost with an Earthquake or trembling, upon which the higher and softer parts of the Mountain that are clung together of Ashes, Cinders, Rains and other refuses of Minerals being shook in pieces, and loosned by this quaking, and so falling like Hills into the bottom of this Hellish Gulph, cause such terrible noises as are often heard, which are so great and fearful as may daunt the most stout and couragious Spirit. The matter which was continually belched forth from the center or bottom of the Mountain made as it were a new Mountain, which had wonderful variety of Furrows or hollow Channels, with various kinds of melted Minerals, formed as it were by the ingenious Pencil of Nature, sometimes of a greenish colour from *Brass*; then yellow from *Sulphur*, *Arsnick*, and *Sandarack*; presently after Red from *Cinabar*, *Read*
Lead

Lead and *Vermilion*; afterward Black from *Vitriol* mixt with Water, or of an *Ashy* colour from the very Cinders. Thus far the laborious *Kircher*.

XLIV. Hear now what our ingenious Countryman Mr. *G. Sandys* relates of this fiery Mountain *Vesuvius*, it is scituate in *Campania Felix*, about eight miles from *Naples*, which City hath received great injuries and prejudices by its Cinders, and violent throwing out of Stones even to its Walls and Houses; This Mountain has vast Fountains of Fire, and was heretofore high on every side before the inward parts were consumed; it usually utters smoak by day, but by night, Flames; its manner is to send forth a loud sounding or roaring noise and bellowing first, and then to belch forth a huge quantity of Cinders to the great danger of those who pass by, but if a vehement wind blow upon it, the Ashes or Cinders are raised so high and driven so far in length, that 'tis certain they have sometimes been carried as far as *Constantinople*, though many hundred miles distance, and so affrighted them that they have all ran to their Prayers to implore the averting of Divine Wrath. The Mountain hath a double top, that toward the North ends in a Plain, the other

toward the South aspires higher, which when covered with Clouds, prognosticates rain to the *Neopolitans*, in the top there is a large deep hollow in form of an *Amphitheater*, in the midst is a Pit which leads into the Entrails of the Earth, the matter thrown up is ruddy, light and soft, the uttermost brow of the Hill flourishes with Trees, and excellent Pasturage, the midst is shaded with Chesnut Trees and others, bearing divers fruits; The lower parts are admirably clothed with Vines which afford the best *Greek Wines* in the World; It hath at divers times made dreadful Eruptions and Devastations which (as well as Mount *Aetna* of which hereafter) have been accounted ominous, and to portend some woful Calamities to ensue.

But never any thing appeared so horrible (saith my Author) as what hapned in the Reign of the Emperor *Titus* eighty years after Christ, For then it disgorged such boiling Waves and Flouds of Fire as consumed the Neighbouring Cities; And then it was that *Pliny the Second*, that great searcher into Nature, and the famous Author of the Natural History, and then Admiral of the *Roman Navy*, being desirous to discover the reason thereof, was choaked and suffocated in

in approaching too near to discover so great a mystery of Nature, yet not wilfully I suppose, though some Authors assert that he threw himself into it, because he could not understand the natural cause of this mighty Conflagration; At that time there issued forth so great a smoak that the very Sun seemed to be in an Eclipse, and likewise huge Stones, and such plenty of Ashes, that *Rome*, *Africk*, and *Syria* were even covered with them, and besides, Beasts, Fish, and Fowl which were destroyed, it overwhelmed *Herculanum* and *Pompeios* two adjoining Cities with Pumice Stones, together with all the People sitting in the Theater; There were also heard dismal noises all about the Province, and Giants of incredible bigness were seen to stalk up and down the top and edges of the Mountains (if the Peoples fancies were not imposed upon by their astonishment) which extraordinary Accident was judged either a cause, or presage of a terrible Pestilence which reigned in *Rome* and *Italy* long after; *Marcellinus* the *Roman Historian* relates, That the Ashes of *Vesuvius* transported in the Air, obscured and darkned all *Europe*, and that the Inhabitants of *Constantinople* were wonderfully affrighted therewith, insomuch that their Em-

peror Leo forsook the City, and that in memorial of the same they celebrated yearly the 12 of *November*. It likewise burnt in the six year of *Constantine* the Fourth, and groaned, but ejected no Cinders; *Platina*, writes, that it flamed in 685. prognosticating the Death of Pope *Benedict* II. with the insuing Slaughters, Rapines, and Deaths of Princes; During the Papacy of *Benedict* VIII, and IX. it is said to have done the like, and though it hath made dreadful devastations, yet the fruitful Ashes thrown about did seem to repair the foregoing losses with a quick and marvellous fruitfulness; At the foot of the Hill there are divers holes and vents, out of which exceeding cold wind, do continually issue, and which at *Padua* they let into their Rooms at pleasure, to qualify the heat of Summer; In the year 1610. in *February*, *Vesuvius* began to flame, to the great affrightment of the *Neapolitans*, and solemn Prayers and Supplications being ordered, they went in Procession with the Head of *Januarius* their Patron, and the defender of their City carried before them; whereby the deluded people were persuaded that the destruction which hung over their heads was prevented. In 1631. was a new

Eruption

Eruption, and again in 1635. was an Earthquake in *Messina*.

XLV. In the year 1638. likewise the industrious *Kircher* made a discovery of the *Phlegrean*, or Fiery Plains in the Fields of *Puteoli* near *Naples*, which being another wonderful Prodigy of Nature, may be worth relating; Passing by *Naples* (saith he) I could not let slip the opportunity of inquiring and looking into those Sulphurous Plains so much celebrated in all Ages; Having therefore gone through a Passage under ground, called the *Groote*, arched and made hollow, to the Mountain *Pausippus*; not far from *Puteoli*, between the Jaws of the Mountains, a large Plain presents it self to view, altogether dreadful and full of horror, in length about twelve hundred Foot, in breadth a thousand; The whole Plain is surrounded with Hills of high and steep Rocks, which were formerly very lofty, but are since devoured by perpetual Fires; In the bottom little hills are seen to burn and flame, with a strong smell of Brimstone which is carried by the Winds through all the Neighbouring Regions, even as far as *Naples*; some parts of the Plain have an infinite number of holes, and are yellow with a Sulphurish matter; the ground

ground when it is touched by those who walk thereon, sounds and rattles like a Drum by reason of the hollowness thereof; and you may feel as it were, not without astonishment, boyling Waters under your feet, and thick fiery fumes to hiss and flow from one place to another with a great crackling noise through the Pipes and Passages under ground which are made by these fiery Exhalations; the force of this is very great as you may experience by stopping any of these holes with an heavy stone, or the like; for then you shall observe the violence of the smoak presently to throw it up, and belch it forth again; But an huge Laky Ditch in the same plain did wonderfully affect me; It is full of boyling Waters, very frightful for their blackness, that one would imagine it were a Kettle, or Caldron boyling with Pitch and Rosin; It is likewise admirable that the swallowing Gulph casts forth these boyling Waters eight or ten foot above a Mans height, in the fashion of a spire Steeple, or Pyramid; In the Mountains and Rocks wherewith this *Vulcanian* Plain is compassed, there are Passages like Chimneys, some whereof breath out a continual Wind, with a terrible sound and rattling, and also with such strength, that if you

you cast a stone thereinto, it is struck back again to your hand with great fury; some of their breathing holes dart forth smoak mixt with flames; you would here think your self almost in the midst of Hell, where all things appear horrid, sad and lamentable, and you are even struck breathless with the stench of *Sulphur*, *Bitumen*, *Naptbe*, and other Earths, Clays, Marls and Minerals, In 1640. all the *Low Countreys* and a great part of *Germany* were shaken by a sudden Earthquake.

XLVI: In 1650 about five a Clock in the Afternoon in the Countys of *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* was a general Earthquake wherewith the People were so affrighted, that many of them forsook their Houses, and some Houses were so shaken that the Chimneys fell down. The same year, 1650. the Island of *Santorin*, at the bottom of the *Streights* in the *Mediterranean* Sea, not far from *Candia*, had formidable Fires and Earthquakes. This Island was formerly called *Thera*, but now *Santorin*, and started up out of the Sea, for *Baronius* out of *Pliny* thus writes; In the year 726. a Vapour was seen to bubble forth out of a Chimney of Fire, between the Islands of *Theresia*, or *Santorin* from the very bottom

tom of the Sea, which continued some days and the Fire and Smoak growing thicker by degrees, spread it self abroad with mighty flames, and with the vastness of its strength, it cast out huge Rocky Pumice Stones, and great heaps of other matter, which it carried through all *Asia*, *Lesbos*, and *Abydos*, and the Sea-Coasts of *Macedonia*, so that the whole Surface of the Sea was covered with these Pumices; But in the middle of so great a Fire, there was an Island made from the heaping up of that matter, and and joyned to the Island, called *The Sacred*, which never was in being before; There was likewise another Island next to this formed in 1670. not without great terror to those of *Santorin*; since the burning lasted for a year, as some ancient People who saw it with their Eyes did lately testifie; But in the middle of this smaller new Island which is now called little *Camena*, there is to be seen at this very day an huge deep Ditch, which being narrow toward the bottom, grows bigger by degrees like a Funnel, out of which as out of a Chimney those mighty Stones and Rocks did burst forth, which being mixt with Cinders and Ashes composed the rest of that Isle.

XLVII. But

XLVII. But if ever these Fires pent up in the Bowels of the Earth exercised their force, it was most remarkable upon *September 24. 1650.* which shook the Island till the ninth of *October*, with such mighty and frequent Earthquakes that the People of *Santorin* fearing that their immediate ruin was approaching, were on their Knees night and day before their Altars; It cannot be expressed what an horror invaded all men; especially when those victorious Flames breaking through all Obstacles, strove to make themselves a way through the midst of the Waters of the Ocean about four miles Eastward from *Santorin*; For the Sea all on a suddain swelled Thirty Cubits upward, and extending it self wide through the Neighbouring Lands, overturned all in its way; Insomuch that it broke in pieces several Ships and Gallies in the very Haven of *Candia*, with its extraordinary violence, though fourscore miles distant from thence; The Air being darkned with those sulphurous stinking Vapours, put on innumerable Forms and Appearances, as of Fiery Lances, and Swords brandished and shaken, bright and glittering Arrows darting forth; Here terrible Serpents and Dragons seemed to be flying, There hideous Thunderclaps, Lightnings

nings and Thunderbolts; And yet they could scarce see, for the Peoples Eyes were so hurt with those sharp, pricking sulphurous smoaks, and vapours that almost all became blind for three days, with such grievous pains in their Eyes, that they wept continually, and bewailed their most miserable Fate; But when their Eye-sight returned, they saw all their Silver and Gold, both Vessels and Garments, and Pictures, spread over with a yellow colour; and such a vast multitude of Pumice stones, did this fiery Gulph vomit forth, that it covered the Sea, so that they could scarce pass in a Vessel; It is most certain that they were carried many hundred Miles, even to *Smyrna* and *Constantinople*, and all the Shoars and Coasts were filled therewith. The fury of this Burning was greatest for the first two months, which caused the Neighbouring Sea to bubble like a boyling Pot, and night and day huge Globes and Flakes of Fire, and exceeding thick Smoak mounted up to the Heavens; which if at any time it was carryed by contrary winds to any places near at hand, besides a most grievous stink, it brought certain destruction upon Birds and Beasts, yea, upon men themselves. As it happened in *October* and

November

November this year, that fifty Husbandmen miserably perished thereby, besides an innumerable multitude of Birds, Sheep, Oxen and Asses; The like happened to nine Marriners, who passing that way in their Ship by night, after three days were all found half burnt, and were buried in the Island *Nio* threescore Miles from *Santorin*; But the other four months (for it flamed six in all) though that Hellish Hearth or Furnace abated much of its vigour and fierce heat, and could scarce lift it self above the waves, yet it still seemed to cast out Pumice stones, and to be labouring to form a new Island, which though it does not yet appear above Water, yet in a calm Sea it is observed to be very shallow thereabout, the Water being in that place not above eight Cubits deep.

XLVIII. In 1657. The Spaniards felt a terrible blow in *Peru*, which if it were not a Mark of the Wrath of Heaven, (saith my Author,) was at least a Sign that the Earth is weary of them, especially in those parts where they have stained it with so much innocent blood. The City of *Lima* was swallowed up by an Earthquake, and *Calao* another City not far from it, was consumed by a shower of Fire out of the

the Clouds, eleven thousand Spaniards lost their lives in this calamity, and the Earth devoured an hundred Millions of refined Silver, which the lucre of the Spaniards had forced out of its Bowels. All the Mountains of *Potosi* from whence they dug their choicest mettall were levelled with the Plain, and no more hopes of Gold was left to their insatiable avarice.

XLIX. In 1660 an Earthquake happened at *Paris* in *France*, and at the same time they had news that part of the *Pyrenean* Mountains had been overthrown some days before; They are certain Mountains that divide *France* and *Spain*; it did great mischief there, overwhelming some Medicinal Baths, many Houses, and destroying hundreds of People, only one Church which sunk into the Caverns below was thrown up again, and stands very firm, but in another place. This was looked upon as a great Miracle, especially by the French, who have disputed with the Spaniard about this Church as standing on the Frontier Line, but now is removed near half a League within the acknowledged limits of *France*.

L. In 1665. There was a great Tempest accompanied with Thunder, Lightning and an Earthquake in divers places in *England*,

England, at which time the stately Spire of *Trinity-Church* in *Coventry* fell down and demolished a great part of the Church. The next year Sir *Rob. Holms* destroyed above one hundred and fifty sail of Dutch Ships at the *Vly* in *Holland*, and burnt the Town of *Bandaris* in the Island of *Schelling*, containing at least a thousand Houses. *Sept. 2.* about One a Clock in the Morning a sudden and lamentable Fire broke out in the City of *London*, beginning in a place called *Pudding-lane*, near *New-Fish-Street* which in four days time burnt down thirteen thousand two hundred Houses.

LJ. In 1658, in Autumn, a great part of *Asia*, and some parts of *Europe* were infested with extraordinary Earthquakes; The Cities of *Constantinople* and *Adrianople* felt its sad Effects, but not with that violence and continuance as in other Places. In some parts of *Persia* it continued for above fourscore days; *Torqueto* and *Bolio* two considerable Cities, were by its great violence laid even to the ground, and all or most of the Inhabitants buried in the Ruins, above six thousand Persons perished in the first of them, and above eighteen hundred in the latter; And in all the adjacent Cities it raged with extraordinary fury, destroying

stroying and ruining the Buildings, killing many of the People, and the rest were forced to quit the Towns, and take up their Lodgings in the Fields. About the beginning of *August* 1669, there came two Whales and a Grampas up the River of *Thames*, whereof one of the Whales, and the Grampas were killed, and the other Whale which was the bigger, returned back into the Sea.

III. In 1669, there happened a most dreadful Earthquake and Irruption of Mount *Etna* in *Sicily*, of which before I give a particular Account, it may not be unproper to describe the Mountain itself, as it has been related by divers famous Historians; *Etna* or Mount *Gibello*, called by *Pindar* the *Celestial Column* or *Pillar*, is the highest Mountain in *Sicily*, from whence all the Island may be seen at once, and in a clear day the Eye may even reach *Africa*; it rears up its Top or Spire thirty miles into the Sky, and may be seen forty or fifty miles at Sea, but its compass is sixty, others say an hundred miles space, it appears Eastward with two shoulders, having an eminent head in the middle, The lower parts are luxuriously fruitful, and the abundance of fat oily matter which is cast out of it,

makes

makes the Soil thereof as well as of the whole Island Incredibly fruitful in the best Wine, Oil, Honey, Saffron, Minerals also of Gold, Silver, Silks and Allom, with variety of excellent and delicious Fruits, and abundance of all sorts of Grain, so that it was called in old time, *The Granary of the Roman Empire*; The middle of the Mountain is woody and shady, the upper part rocky, steep, and almost covered with Snow; yet smoaking in the midst like many conjoyned Chimneys, and vomiting intermitted flames, usually discernable only of a night, as if heat and cold had left their Contentions, and embraced one another, for though it continually Burns, with most fervent smoak and fire, yet round about the top are seen perpetual and most deep snows, the uppermost top is broken and cragged with unstable Cinders and Pumice stones, and cleaves open with a most vast *Crater* or mouth twelve miles in compass, which in a steep descent streightens it self narrower even to the bottom of Hell as it were; A most horrible precipice it is, exceeding formidable with flames and fumes from the very bottom and sides of the Mountain, with an horrendous roaring and bellowing not unlike the bursting forth of Thunders, so that

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the very imagination and thoughts of the Fire and Ruins so nigh at hand, cannot but at first sight amaze, and afright any humane Creature, and make him start from it, as from the Infernal Gulph of Hell; On one side within are most dark and dreadful Dens, one whereof is so vast, as to be capable to contain thirty thousand Men; In many places you may see the tracts and paths of huge Torrents of melted matter; in the very top, Snow and Ashes, or Cinders, as if they had concluded an Eternal Wedlock, are seen to overwhelm all things with a sad and doleful countenance, which are very dangerous to unwary Visitors, because under them there lye concealed deep holes, and devouring Gulphs, without bottom or end, which have swallowed up very many, coming unadvisedly too near without a Guide, and by their ruin have left warnings to others not rashly to venture upon these hidden deceits which have cheated mortals of their Lives; in the utmost bottom of this Hellish Gull the Fire is at no time extinguished, but always sends forth either boiling heat, smook or flame, yet outwardly it begins to grow fierce and terrible only at certain intervals of time more or less according to the combustible matter heaped together;

ther; and by how much longer it hath ceased, by so much it bursts forth with greater violence, and together with the Flame sends forth huge heaps of Sands, and Prodigious stones of wondrous weight.

LIII. These Fires have broke forth in several Ages of the World, to the great terror and destruction of the Inhabitants, and all the adjacent Countries; As in the year of the World 2600. when the Posterity of *Jahus* went to seek new Colonies, they first entered *Sicily*, where at that time there was so great a burning of the Mountain, that the new Planters leaving the Island for fear of Deplation, went to seek new habitations in *Italy*; after them followed the *Sicaneans*, who were likewise driven away from these Eastern Parts, to the Western by these dreadful *Aetnean* burnings. In the year 3180. and for above four hundred years after, this Mountain was all on fire with three huge burnings. A little after the Mountains raging anew, it is said to have drawn *Pythagoras* himself into the highest admiration; Also in the Reign of *Hiero*, at which time Histories deliver that *Empedocles* an Observer of the Mountain was destroyed. In the time of *Julius Caesar*, about fifty years before Christ, *Diodorus* relates, That

Ætna, raged most violently, which they said portended the Death of *Cæsar*; It is reported to have been so great, that the Sea, with its fervour and boyling heat burnt the very Ships, even as far as the *Vulcanello's*. All the Fish being destroyed and boyled to death; yea within twenty years, the Mountain burnt four times. In the Reign of *Caius Caligula* forty nine years after Christ, the Mountain raged so, that the Emperor at that time in *Sicily* was so affrighted, that he betook himself to safer stations; yet they relate, that the Emperor *Adrian* out of the greatness of his mind did ascend the Mountain very far, to consider more nearly such great Miracles; In several Ages after, it made woful irruptions, as from the year 1160. to 1169. all *Sicily* was shaken with huge Earthquakes, and the Mountain *Ætna* foaming mightily, overthrew all the circumjacent places with incredible Desolation, with the ruin of the Cathedral Church of *Catania* about ten miles distant, in which Abbot *John* and his Monks were overwhelmed; Many other fearful burnings have happened since time, but none more horrible for its mighty devastations than that in the year 1669. The Earl of *Winchelsea* late Ambassador at *Constantinople*, in his return from

from thence, visiting *Catania*, was an Eye-witness of this Prodigious Judgment, whereof he gave the following Account to King *Charles* the second, as soon as he came to *Naples*.

May it please Your Majesty,

'In my Voyage from *Malta* to this place, I touched at the City of *Catania* in *Sicily*, and was there most kindly invited by the Bishop to lodge in his Palace, which I accepted, that so I might be the better able to inform your Majesty of that extraordinary Fire which comes from Mount *Gibel*, fifteen miles distant from that City; which for its horridness in the aspect, for the vast quantity thereof, (for it is fifteen miles in length, and seven in breadth) for its monstrous devastation and quick progress, may be termed an Inundation of Fire, a Flood of Fire, Cinders and burning Stones, burning with that Rage as to advance into the Sea six hundred yards, and that to a mile in breadth, which I saw; and that which did augment my admiration was, to see in the Sea this matter like ragged Rocks, burning in four fathom Water, two fathom higher than the Sea it self; some parts liquid and moving, and throwing off, not without great violence, the

E stones

stones about it, which like a crust of a vast bigness, and red hot, fell into the Sea every moment, in some place or other, causing a great and horrible noise, smook, and hissing in the Sea; and thus more and more coming after it, making a firm foundation in the Sea it self. I stayed there from nine a Clock on Saturday morning, to seven next morning, and this Mountain of Fire and Stones, with Cinders, had advanced into the Sea twenty yards at least, in several places; in the middle of this Fire, which burn'd in the Sea, it hath formed a passage like to a River, with its Banks on each side very steep and craggy, and in this Channel moves the greatest quantity of this Fire, which is the most liquid, with stones of the same composition, and Cinders all red hot, swimming upon the Fire of a great magnitude;

From this River of Fire (under the great Masse of the Stones which are generally three fathom high all over the Country, where it burns and in other places much more,) there are secret Conduits or Rivulets of this liquid matter, which Communicate Fire and Heat into all parts more or less, and melts the Stones and Cinders by fits in those places where it toucheth them,

over

over and over again; where it meets with Rocks or Houses of the same matter (as many are) they melt and go away with the Fire; where they find other compositions they turn them to lime or ashes, as I am informed. The composition of this Fire, Stones and Cinders, are Sulphur, Nitre, Quick-silver, Sal-Armoniac, Lead, Iron, Brass, and all other Mettals. It moves not regularly, nor constantly downhill; in some places it hath made the Valleys Hills, and the Hills that were not high are now Valleys. When it was night I went upon two Towers in divers places, and could plainly see at ten miles distance, as we judged, the Fire to begin to run from the Mountain in a direct line, the flame to ascend as high and as big as one of the highest and greatest Steeples in Your Majesties Kingdoms, and to throw up great Stones into the Air; I could discern the River of Fire to descend the Mountain of a terrible fiery or red colour, and stones of a paler Red, to swim thereon, and to be some as big as an ordinary Table. We could see this fire to move in several other places, and all the Country covered with Fire, ascending with great Flames; in many places, smooking like to a vio-

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lence

'lent furnace of Iron melted, making a
 'noise with the great pieces that fell, espe-
 'cially those which fell into the Sea. A
 'Cavalier of *Malta*, who lives there, and
 'attended me, told me, that the river was
 'as liquid where it issues out of the Moun-
 'tain, as water, and came out like a Tor-
 'rent with great violence, and is five or
 'six fathom deep, and as broad, and that
 'no stones do sink therein. I assure Your
 'Majesty, no Pen can express how terrible
 'it is, nor can all the Art and Industry of
 'the World quench, or divert that which
 'is burning in the Country. In forty days
 'time it hath destroyed the habitation of
 'twenty seven thousand persons, made two
 'Hills of one, a thousand paces high a-
 'piece, and one is four Miles in compass.
 'Of twenty thousand persons which inha-
 'bited *Catania*, three thousand did remain;
 'all their Goods are carried away, the Can-
 'ons of Brass are removed out of the Ca-
 'stle, some great Bells taken down, the
 'City-Gates Walled up next the Fire, and
 'preparation made all to abandon the
 'City.

'That night which I lay there, it rained
 'Ashes all over the City, and ten Miles at
 'Sea it troubled my Eyes. This Fire in

'its progress met with a *Lake* of Four Miles
 'in compass, and it was not only satisfied
 'to fill it up, though it was four fathom
 'deep, but hath made of it a *Mountain*.
 'I send also to Your Sacred Majesty the
 'following Account in Print which the
 'Bishop gave me, as it is collected out of di-
 'vers Relations from *Catania*.

LIV. Mount *Aetna*, or *Monte Gibello*,
 a Mountain so Renowned throughout the
 World for its height and greatness, but
 more for those Prodigious Flames, Smoak,
 and Ashes which it hath cast out from the
 top of it, whilst the other parts are continu-
 ally (even in the midst of Summer) co-
 vered with Snow, has been for many Ages
 observed once, or sometimes oftner, in
 the space of about fifteen years to throw up
 more than ordinary Flames with much
 Smoak and Stones, and great quantities of
 Ashes; which (though terrible to the
 Neighbouring Towns and Villages) was
 yet wont, in little time to abate of its fury,
 and prove but seldom more injurious to the
 Country near it, than by communicating
 largely its ashes, which though for the pre-
 sent it did somewhat incommode them,
 they had afterwards a considerable com-
 pensation in the product of their Lands,

which by this means was rendered more fruitful. But on *Friday* the 18th of *March* 1669. the Sun was observed before its setting to appear of a pale and dead colour, which (being contrary to what it ever before appeared to us) struck no small terror into the Inhabitants, all Objects appearing also of the same colour, with a paleness received from that of the Sun: The same night happened in this City as well as the whole Countrey hereabouts, a terrible and unusual Earthquake, whose strong and unequal motions joyned with horrible Roarings from *Monte Gibello* exceedingly frightened the the Inhabitants, but was so extraordinary violent in the Countrey adjacent, that the People were forced to abandon their Houses, and to fly into the Fields to avoid the danger threatned them from the falling of their Houses. The Village of *Nicolosi* was of all others the most dreadfully handled by this furious Earthquake, the Houses and other Buildings being shaken all in pieces, and buried in their own Ruins; the poor People (who had preserved their Lives by a timely flight, with such little of their goods as their hasty fears would permit them to carry out with them) continued a Night or two in the Fields, beholding with grief and

and astonishment the ruin of their habitations: but observing that by these violent concussions, the Earth began to open in several places, and to threaten them with inevitable ruin, they fled, though with much trouble and amazement to this City. These shakings of the Earth being so frequent and violent, that the the People went reeling and staggering, with much difficulty supporting one another from falling, insomuch as what with their want of sleep, the pains they were forced to take in travelling, and the great terrors imprinted on them by what they had seen and suffered, they appeared at their arrival in this City as so many distracted People wholly insensible of what they did.

This dreadful convulsion of the Earth was immediately followed on *Monday March 11.* about Ten at Night by Three Terrible Eruptions, much about the same time, and a little distance one from the other.

These said Eruptions were observed to be on the side of *Monte Gibello*, about two Miles beyond the Mountain called *Montpi-leri*, from whence with a terrible noise it threw up its flames with much fury and violence about a hundred yards in height; its

noise not roaring only inwards from the belly of the Mountain as before, but violently cracking like peals of Ordinance or Thunder, from the side of it, throwing out vast stones, some of them 300. pound weight, which being (as it were) shot through the Air, fell several miles distant from the place, whilst the whole Air was filled with Smoak, burning Cinders, and Ashes, which fell like a fiery rain upon the Countrey. In the mean time issued from the side of this Prodigious Mountain a vast Torrent of Melted and Burning Matter, which like an Inundation, Drowned, as in a Flood of Fire, the Countrey on this side of it. This Burning River ran down upon the Mountain *Montpileri*. which, opposing its direct course, it divided it self into two streams, which encompassed the said Mountain; one of them taking its way by *La Guardia*, the Convent of *Sr. Ann* and *Malpasso*: the other by the Towns of *Montpileri*, and *Falicchi*, which in few hours were wholly destroyed and lost, not so much as any sign of them remaining, with several lesser Villages and Farms, and with them the famous Image of the blessed Lady of the *Annunciata*; which, though highly Reverenced throughout the whole Island, esteemed

esteemed the wonder of *Sicily* and the whole World; and to which the People with much Devotion resorted in Pilgrimage from the remotest parts, was also swallowed up and consumed by this dreadful Torrent.

This Fiery and Burning Deluge immediately spread it self to above six Mile in breath, seeming to be somewhat of the colour of melted and burning Glass; but, as it cools, becomes hard and Rocky, and every where in its passage leaves Hills and Pyramids of that matter behind it.

At the same time *Monte Gibello* from its top raged with dreadful Flames, which with its noise and Concussions of the Earth which still continued, added not a little to the Terror of the People, who ran with Cries and Lamentations about the City and Country, expecting nothing but to be swallowed up or consumed by Fire, having no other apprehensions but of Death, and a General Conflagration. The two Torrents of Fire came forward, destroying all things in their way, and by *Wednesday, March 13th*. had on the West side branched it self into several Streams, and over-ran *Campop Rotundo*, *Sr. Pietro*, and *Mosforbianco*, with *La Potielli*, and *Sr. Antonino*; and on the East-part rain'd the lower part of

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Mascalucia, and *Le Placchi*, taking its way towards this City.

On *Thursday* the 14th, the Wind came Eastwards, on which fell abundance of Rain, which abated not the Progress of the Fire; which on the East-side had from *Mascalucia* made its way to *St. Giovanni di Galermo*, the lower part whereof it destroyed; and passing on, seemed to threaten this City on one side, as did that on the West-side the other. As the Fire approached, the Religious every where appeared with much Devotion, carrying in Procession their Reliques, especially those of *St. Agatha*, the famous Martyr of *Catania*, in which they reposed no small confidence; followed by great multitudes of People, some of them mortifying themselves with Whips, and other signs of Penance, with great Complaints and Cryes, expressing their dreadful expectation of the Events of those Prodigious fiery Inundations.

Whilst the People were thus busied in their Devotions, and astonisht by their Fears, News was brought to the Magistrates of the City, that a considerable number of Thiefs and Robbers had taken the opportunity of this general distraction, to
make

make a Prey of the already distressed People; and that they had murdered several of them for their Goods; and that it was to be fear'd, that the City of *Catania* it self, might run some danger from the great numbers of them which were about the Countrey, and from thence took their opportunities to get into the Town. Whereupon, Consultation being had for the prevention of farther mischief from them, the Commander of the Castle was ordered with a considerable number of Horse, and a Party of Spaniards, to secure the Countrey and City against these Robbers; who immediately sent out several Parties with his Provost-Marshal, with Order to seize upon all suspected Persons, and such as were not able to give a good account of themselves: And for such as were taken in the Fact Robbing, to Execute them by Martial-Law, without any farther Tryal; and accordingly caused three pair of Gallows to be set up for their speedy Execution; one before the Gate *Di Aci*, a second in the *Market-place*, and a third before the Gate *Della Decima*, setting strong Guards upon the Gates of the City, and causing all suspected Houses to be searched, an Account to be given in of all Lodgers, and such Persons to be secured

as could any ways fall under a Suspicion. The poor People out of the Countrey being by this Prodigious Calamity stript out of all their Estates, and reduced to great extremity, fled most of them for refuge and relief to this City, with great Lamentations, moving the Charity of the Magistrates, who were readily inclined to give them the best assistance they were able; and the Citizens moved by their Complaints and Sufferings, freely open'd their Doors, filling their Houses with as many of those distressed People as they could possibly receive; the Bishop and all Persons of Quality and Estate, contributing largely for their support, till better Order could be taken for the disposing of them.

The City of *Messina* also, and several other Cities (informed of this extraordinary Calamity) sent hither large Supplies of Provisions offering their best assistance to this place, in case of extremity. All the Elements seem'd at this time to make War upon us, and to conspire together for the punishment of the Inhabitants; The Air was continually darkned with Clouds and Smoak, agitated by great and violent Winds, and oftentimes showred down great Rains, insomuch as the Sun from the be-

ginning

ginning of these Eruptions, very seldom appeared to us, and when it did, (with extraordinary paleness,) for a little time only and (as it were abhorring so dreadful a Spectacle) soon hid its face again under a thick Cloud.

The Sea ran much higher than it was wont to do, and by its extraordinary Roaring, and in some places overflowing its Banks, added not a little to our Consternation. The Land every where infested with Thieves, insomuch, that till by the extraordinary care taken by the Magistrates and Officers, severe execution was done upon such as were apprehended in the Fact, no person was able to stir abroad without danger of his Life; whilst the Fire by this prodigious overflowing of the Mountain, threatned to take possession of all.

On *Friday* the 15th. the stream of fiery Matter which destroyed the lower part of *St. Giovanni di Galermo* divided it self into two parts, one of its branches taking its way toward *Mosterbianco*, the other threatening the City of *Catania*, but this last was observed to move with more slowness than before, having in 24. hours time scarcely gained 20 paces.

On

On the 18th. being *Monday*, the Torrents being still seen to draw nearer and nearer to this City, the Senate with Monsignor *Cambuchi* the Bishop of this place, followed by all the Clergy Secular and Regular, and an infinite number of People went in a solemn Procession out of this City to *Monte de St. Sofia*, carrying out with greatest Devotion their choicest Relicks, and upon an Altar erected in view of the Mountain, exposed them, where they celebrated Mass and used the Exorcismes accustomed upon such extraordinary occasions, all which time, the Mountain ceased not as before with excessive roaring to throw up its Smoak and Flames with extraordinary violence, and an abundance of great stones; which were carried through the Air, some of them falling within their view, though at ten miles distance from the Eruption; the Ashes which proceeded from thence were scattered in great abundance, as well on this City as on the Country adjacent, every where in the Fields with Cinders, and the heat of the said Ashes destroying the Grass, which obliged the People to drive away their Cattel to a farther distance, which would otherwise have perished for want of food.

These

These streams of ruin daily crept nearer and nearer to this City, but by uneven and irregular motions, according as it was more or less supplied from its fountain; but on *Wednesday* the twentieth we perceived that that branch of it which seemed most to threaten this City from *St. Giovanni di Galermo* was wholly extinguishd, and the other which bent its course toward *Mosterbianco* ran but slowly, and gave us some hopes that its fury was also near spent, but the other Torrent which had before overflowed *Mosterbianco*, continued its motion with as much violence as ever, being in breath above a Musquet shot over; but in probability could not easily overflow to the Westward which was defended by its Rocky situation; another branch which ran by *Santo Pietro* was observed to be much larger than the rest, and its stream more quick and active, but meeting with some opposition in its way, it made some stop, only sending out a Rivulet toward the Eastwards about three or four yards wide, of its most subtle or active matter, which directed its course towards a small Village about a Furlong distant from its main stream; another Branch threatened *Campo Rotundo*, but bent its course Westwards

wards towards the Farm of *Valcorrente*, where its Fiery body was scattered into several deep and rocky places, without any considerable damage.

About this time we had hopes that the violence of this Eruption had been over, the Mountain not throwing out its flames with that violence as before, and its noise and roaring in a great measure ceased.

Those who at nearest distance took a view of the Mountain, informed that the top of it, was fallen in, and the Mountain supposed to want near a Mile of its former height; that the largest of the Mouths from whence these fiery streams were vented, was about half a mile in compass; but the view of this dreadful Inundation carried so much terror in it as they were not able to express; from all these Mouths were vomited Rivers of a thick and fiery substance of stone and metals melted, whose depth was various according to the several places it filled in its passage, in some places four, in others eight, twelve or fifteen yards and upwards; its breadth in some places six miles, in others much more; its flame like that of Brimstone, and its motion like that of Quick-silver; advancing ordinarily very slowly, unless where it was provoked by the addition

tion of a fresh Torrent or some considerable descent. Wheresoever it passed, it left large heaps of its congealed matter, with which it covered and burnt the Earth, melting the Walls of Castles and Houses, throwing down and consuming all before it, nothing being yet found able to resist its force, nor any thing able to quench its burning, water being observed rather to add to its fury; wheresoever it has passed, it has left its dreadful marks behind it, levelling some hills and raising others, so much changing the situation, that not the least trace of any Place or Town remains, nothing being to be seen but confused heaps of ragged stone, which yielding a noisome fume, strikes terror and astonishment into all that behold it.

On Friday the 22. the Mountain again roared with much loudness, and threw up from its Mouth a vast quantity of matter, which formed two large hills higher and larger than that of *Monpileri*, with a large bank of the same matter to the Eastward, sending down a violent stream of its liquid matter towards *Malpasso*, much enlarging the former Current, and passing thence to *Campo Rotundo* and *Santo Pietro* completed the ruins of those Towns, driving furiously

ly towards *Mostor-bianco*; the other stream by *Santo Giovanni de Galermo* being wholly diverted and extinguish'd. From this time till the 25th, the Mountain continued silent, but then it burst out again with more force than ever before, its noise much louder, like Peales of Ordnance, and so forcible and lasting, as for twenty four hours it caused a shaking and trembling in our Buildings, the Air so filled with Smoke and Ashes, as darkned the Face of the Sky. The Birds and Fowl about this time, either through want of Food, or illness of Air, which was corrupted with the noisome smells arising from these Burnings, were observed to lye dead in all places.

On the 28th. the Grand Current was advanced near the City as far as the old *Capuchins*, which struck so great a Terror into the People, that most of them left the City, only some Officers remaining with such persons as were under their command, who have secured and sent away the *Magazines*, and all the Artillery from the Castle.

LV. A Letter Relation from *Catania*, of April 27. gives this further Account, The dreadful Inundation from *Monte Gibello* having destroyed many Castles and Towns, with an infinite loss, and utter ruin to the
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Inhabitants, arrived lately with a renewed Force at *Mostor-bianco*, which it has wholly ruin'd, from thence passing on to *Albanelli*, in four days space destroyed all the Gardens and Vineyards with sixty three thousand Vines. On *Wednesday April 16*. With an Impetuous Fiery Torrent it came towards *Sardanello*, where all the remainder of the Inhabitants of this City were Spectators of it, which resembled a River of melted and burning Brass, about ten Ells wide, running with swiftness to the Arch of *Marcus Marcellus*, a famous Piece of Antiquity, and passing under it, ruin'd about six Ells of it, which was the breadth of the Current in that place: from thence it ran to *Madonni di Monserrato*, which it wholly destroyed: then falling down to *Madonna delle Gratie*, it entred in at one Gate, and passed through another, without any considerable hurt, and running through the Gate *Della Decima*, filled all the Plain *Di Schiara Viva*, where it was above six Ells deep. Then taking its way towards the Bulwark, on the Sea-side, under the Castle of this City, it ran by, two Ells deep into the Sea; in which, (to the great wonder of all that saw it) it has made its Progress a mile in length, and as much in breadth, and is drawing towards the
the

the Gate of the Channel, which gives us great Apprehensions, least it may that way Invade the City itself: Nor is there less danger on the side *Del Tindaro*, where there runs a great Torrent of the same Active matter, which draws near, and seems to threaten the Walls, and is in that place about a mile in breadth, having overflowed and destroyed all the Gardens, from the Gate *Della Decima*, as far as *Madonni delli Amellati*.

The names of the most considerable Towns and places ruined and destroyed by the dreadful Earthquakes and Irruptions were, The Town of *Nicolosi*, wholly ruined; *Padara* and *Tre Castagne* the greatest part destroyed; The Towns of *La Guardia*, *Malpasso*, *Campo Rotundo*, *Potielli*, *St. Antonino*, *St. Pietro*, *Misterbianco*, *Montpilevi*, *La Anunciata*, *Falicchi*, *Placchi*, all wholly overflowed consumed, and lost in this fiery Inundation with all the Lands belonging to them, no foot-steps of them remaining; The Towns of *Masculucia*, and *St. Giovanni de Galermo* ruined in part; The large Gardens and Vineyards of *Albanelli* overflowed and destroyed: The famous piece of Antiquity of *Marcus Marcellus*, much ruined; *Madonna de Monferrato* destroyed,

stroyed, besides many Castles, Farms, and other Places, which have run the same Fortune, whose names we for brevity pass over.

LVI. West of the Isle of *Sicily* in the *Tuscan* Sea, within sight of *Messina*, and one hundred and fifty miles distant from Mount *Aetna* are the *Aolian* Islands, so called from *Æolus* King thereof, who first taught the use of the Sail, and by observing the Fire and Smoak which ascended from these Islands, (for heretofore they all flamed) was from thence fabled to be the God of the Winds; These were anciently seven, but are now eleven Islands, of which *Liparis* is the greatest, being ten miles in circuit, the Fire went out here about an Age ago, So that at this day *Strombolo* only burns, (though another called *Vulcano* smoaks continually) It was formerly called *Strongile*, but by corruption *Strombolo* from the roundness thereof, for it seems like an high round Mountain in the Sea, out of the top whereof issueth continually a flame like a burning Beacon, and exceeding clear, so that by night especially it is to be discerned a wonderful way, A place so full of horror to the neighbouring Islanders, that the more ignorant *Papists* are made to believe it is the very

ry Jaws of Hell it self; The aforementioned *Kircher* made Observation of this Mountain likewise, which he thus relates; That on a certain day viewing *Strombolo* very curiously, about threescore miles distant, he observed it to be more than ordinarily furious, for it appeared wholly overwhelmed with Fire in so great plenty, that it seemed to belch out flaming Mountains, a most horrendous Spectacle; And then, saith he, I heard a strange kind of dull murmur from the Mountain so far off, which seemed to come towards us under the Earth, till it reached the subterraneous place where we stood, and there uttered such horrible Thundrings within the Earth, with such formidable Earthquakes, that none of them were able to stand on their Feet; After the violence was over, getting up again with unspeakable Consternation, they beheld the destruction and lamentable subversion of the famous Town of *S. Euphemia* three miles off, which happened at that instant, the City being wholly swallowed up; for seeking for the Town, they found instead thereof, what is wonderful to be related, nothing but a dark stinking Lake sprung up in its place, they could find no men nor Inhabitants; Thence passing on their Journey, they

they found nothing else for Two Hundred miles, but the Carcases of Cities, horrid ruins of Castles, Men stragling up and down in the open Fields, and through horror and famine pining and withering away.

LVII. In *April* 1669. The Mountain *Vesuvius* aforementioned cast up more Smoak and Ashes than formerly, and for several Nights the neighbouring places were much affrighted with the great Flames which issued from it, accompanied with unusual noises; At the same time they write, That the Vice-Roy of *Sicily* having compassion upon the miserable condition of above thirty thousand poor People, who by their Flight had saved themselves from the Fire of Mount *Aetna* aforementioned, which had destroyed seventeen or eighteen Towns or Villages, and by the daily approaches to the City of *Catania*, seemed to threaten it with inevitable ruine, so that the Inhabitants were leaving the place; And that he thereupon sent one of his Officers to take order for the maintenance of those distressed Creatures, and disposing of them into places of safety. *June* 20. this year at *Inspurg* in *Germany*, a little after Noon, there was a very violent Tempest with extraordinary Hail,

Hail, Rain, Thunder and Lightning, accompanied with an Earthquake, which had such terrible Effects at *Schnatz* a Town about three miles distant from *Inspurg*, where the Emperor of *Germany* had some Silver Mines, that the River which runs through it overflowing, drowned all the adjacent Fields, driving down, and destroying above thirty Houses, endamaging many more, and drowning above two hundred People.

LVIII. In 1682. Aug. 25. The Mountain *Vesuvius* did cast out Fire accompanied with a most terrible and hideous noise, which from an hour after Sunset on Saturday, till three a Clock next morning was so great, that it caused a kind of Earthquake, the houses in that City being plainly observed to shake; The Mountain likewise cast out Ashes in great abundance, which were dispersed many miles by the Wind, and the Sunday, all the Streets of *Naples* were covered with them, as if it had been a deep Snow. These Prodigies very much terrified the People, and Publick Prayers were made for appeasing the Wrath of Heaven; It is added, That many great Coals of Fire fell also, the dread whereof wrought so much upon the Inhabitants, that they removed to other

other Cities; That the terrible Earthquakes have thrown down near three thousand Buildings all about the foot of the Mountain, and it roared so loud as to be heard forty miles distance in a still night. The same year an Earthquake happened in *France* and *Switzerland*, which affected all the Cities and places for many hundred miles about.

LIX. In 1685. a very wonderful Prodigy happened in *France*, which though it may not seem so properly inserted among these Relations of Earthquakes, yet the strangeness and reality thereof, may excuse the account I shall give of it; and not being generally known may be the more acceptable. It is notorious to all Christendom that the French King, after a multitude of Infractions of his most solemn Edicts, Oaths and Protestations for securing to the Protestants of his Kingdom the free exercise of their Religion, began about the year 1684. openly and without the least provocation, to use all manner of Cruelties toward them, to oblige them if possible to renounce their Faith and Profession, declaring, 'That he would no longer suffer any Protestants in his Kingdom, but that they must resolve either to change their Religion or else to suffer the utmost Torment'

ments that could be inflicted upon them. In prosecution of this inhumane resolution, Dragoons were employ'd, first to seize the Goods of those that continued constant in their Religion, after which they proceeded to further cruelties, hanging some Men and Women up by the Hair of the Head or the Feet within their own Chimneys, smoaking them with Wisps of Wet Straw; Others they threw into the Fire, and pluckt them thence half roasted; They tied them on the Rack, and poured Wine down their Throats till the same had deprived them of their reason, and then made them say, They would be Catholicks. They stript them stark naked and Larded them all over with Pins from Head to Foot. They kept them from sleeping seven or eight days and nights together. They tied Parents to Bed-posts and ravished their Daughters before their Eyes. They pluckt off the Nails from the Hands and Toes of others, with most intolerable pains, and after these and a thousand other indignities, if they still refused to abjure the Truth, they threw them into close, dark, and stinking Dungeons, exercising upon them all manner of Barbarities. Their Ministers were banished, their Churches demolished, their Houses pluckt down, their

their Wives and Children seized and put into Monasteries, and several suffered most cruel Deaths.

Among the banished Ministers was the famous Monsieur *Jurieu*, who retiring into *Holland*, writ several Pastoral Letters to the Poor Persecuted Protestants in *France* for the strengthening and confirming them in the True Faith of Christ, and for reducing those who through fear of trouble and danger had seemingly reconciled themselves to the Romish Church, and were afterward termed *New Converts*. In one of these Letters Monsieur *Jurieu* gives a very surprizing Relation of Songs and Voices which were heard in the Air, the year 1685. of which I shall give an account in his own words.

The Historians of all Ages have been of opinion that the great Revolutions which have happened in the Societies of men have been preceded by the extraordinary Events, such as Earthquakes, Signs in Heaven, and Prodigies on Earth, of which I could give an infinite number of matters of Fact, very well attested, which have been Presages of Events little less considerable than those at present in the World; and though it seems to me that Earthquakes have their Natural Causes, and so have Famines Pestilences and

Wars; nevertheless Jesus Christ puts these among those things which are to presage his coming; Not that I believe all Eclipses and all Earthquakes are Presages, but there are such circumstances of time and place and concomitant signs in some, that no man I think without rashness can deny but the providence of God doth dispense them to strike the minds of Men with astonishment, and make them attentive to his Judgments; and among other times this year 1685, has been as abundant in Prodiges as any for a long while; wherein we have heard of nothing but extraordinary Storms, Fires falling from Heaven, others coming out of the Earth, of Signs in the Air, and Insects of unknown shapes which have been believed to have fallen from Heaven; And particularly the Singing of Psalms and Voices in the Air.

It is near a year since we first heard any Speech concerning it, and they told us that these Singings had been heard in *Beaune*, the first Province whether the Dragoons were sent. Behold our Witnesses, every one will judge of what worth they are. Monsieur *Magendy* Pastor of the Church of *Orthez* having been questioned concerning this Affair has interrogated divers Persons, according as it appears by his Certificate.

I do declare that Monsieur *Bazin* a younger Brother, and an Inhabitant of *Orthez* in *Beaune* hath told me, that walking with some of his Friends after mid-day near the City of *Orthez*, he heard voices which Sung Psalms; and as he imagined that it might be some Women that washt Linnen, he ran to demand of them whether it was they that Sung; they told him no, and that they themselves had for a long time heard the same Singing of Psalms. This happened some Months before the Interdiction of our Church. The said Monsieur *Bazin* is a very honest man, very judicious, and of integrity; I add that *Mademoiselle de Casenaue* of *Orthez* said to Persons worthy of credit, That being not able to believe that which was said concerning this Singing of Psalms, a Woman sayd to her, That if She had the curiosity to hear them Sing, She would call on her at her own House at a time convenient, which she did; for this Woman being at a eleven at night in the uttermost part of the City, with multitudes of other Persons, to hear these voices which Sung in the Air the Praises of God; having heard this singing of Psalms, She ran to *Mademoiselle Casenaue*, who immediately,

‘mediately gets out of her Bed, causes one of
 ‘her Neighbours to rise; and they ran to that
 ‘quarter of the City which was far removed from
 ‘her House, where they found multitudes of Per-
 ‘sons who were ravished with that pleasant me-
 ‘lody which they heard in the Air; they themselves
 ‘return’d to their Houses with this great consolati-
 ‘on to have heard those Psalms Sung in the Air
 ‘which they could no more Sing in their Church,
 ‘which had been interdicted for some months
 ‘past: They added, That they seem’d to hear
 ‘them Sing after the same manner which they
 ‘used to Sing in their Church; and after the
 ‘Singing ceased, there was a Voice which spake
 ‘but after a manner inarticulate and confused,
 ‘so that they could not distinguish what was said,
 ‘This Gentlewoman is very well worthy of cre-
 ‘dit. Moreover I attest that an infinite number
 ‘of Persons of *Orthez* do say, that they heard
 ‘the Singing of Psalms, which they call the Sing-
 ‘ing of Angels; and that they exhorted each o-
 ‘ther in the day to be present in the night in
 ‘certain places of the City to satisfy this Holy
 ‘Curiosity, which was the reason that the
 ‘Magistrates of *Orthez* published an Ordinance,
 ‘whereby they forbid all Persons from going out
 ‘of their Houses, or assembling themselves by
 ‘night to hear these Voices; which filled this
 ‘poor afflicted People with joy, and extraordi-
 ‘nary consolation. This is that which has been
 ‘told me concerning this Singing of Psalms, to
 ‘which I find no difficulty to give a full consent,
 ‘because the Persons that have reported it are of
 ‘great sincerity. Given at *Amsterdam* November 23.
 1686. Signed *Magendie*, heretofore Minister of
Orthez in *Bearne*.

Monsieur

Monsieur *Garfin* another Minister of the said
 Church of *Orthez*, declares what follows. ‘I whose
 ‘Name is hereunder written, heretofore Pastor of
 ‘the Reformed Church of *Orthez* in in *Bearne*, Do
 ‘certifie to all those whom it may concern, that
 ‘my Brother-in-Law *De Roux* a Lawyer told me
 ‘that between the hours of Eleven and Twelve at
 ‘night, being on the backside of his House in the
 ‘City of *Orthez*; he heard the Singing of Psalms
 ‘above him, and then a little after he heard the
 ‘same Singing come from a place at a greater
 ‘distance; After which he was fully convinced of
 ‘the truth of this Singing of Psalms so much dis-
 ‘courst of all the World over: Moreover he
 ‘thought sometimes during the whole night when
 ‘his Gout hindred him from sleeping, that he
 ‘he heard the same Singing after a manner less
 ‘distinct and unintelligible. I am informed by
 ‘Monsieur *Clarier* a Lawyer of the same City of
 ‘*Orthez*, that the Curate of the place and a certain
 ‘Priest called *Dusan*, and Monsieur *Licbigarai* ano-
 ‘ther Lawyer, as also a Brother of the Curate cal-
 ‘led Monsieur *De la Roque* sent to search out a
 ‘certain Popish Damosel to know of her if it were
 ‘true that she had said, that she had heard this
 ‘Singing of Psalms, and that she told them, Yea.
 ‘And having demanded of her how she knew it
 ‘was the Singing of Psalms, she replyed, That she
 ‘had heard the same Singing in the Church of
 ‘those of the Reformed Religion; And being askt
 ‘how she came to hear Singing there, answered,
 ‘She had been once there at Baptism: But that
 ‘going to a certain Fountain she had often heard
 ‘this Singing as she passed by the Church at the
 ‘hours of Preaching and Prayer. After this Mon-
 ‘sieur *Clarier* told me, that the Curate and others

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‘strictly

strictly forbid her to say any more that she had heard the said Singing of Psalms. Given at Amsterdam, Septemb. 23. 1689. Signed Garfin Minister.

One Peter Mauverg of the said City of Orthez Signed the following Certificate. 'I whose Name is underwritten certifie to all whom it may concern that in the year 1685. about the Months of August or September, I heard in the Air the Singing of Psalms, with different Voices and very melodious; and this at two several times; The first time before the House of Poye, where I was lying upon a Bank half asleep, I was awakened by this Singing of Psalms, which continued almost half an hour. Afterward I went into the House of Monsieur de Poye a Merchant-Draper, with whom I wrought in that Employment; Having told this to Mademoiselle du Poye and her Daughters, they were much offended at me, that I had not given them notice of it at the time I heard the same Singing: The second time I and many others about an hour after midnight, having gone on purpose to a place most high and raised in the City named the *Posterle*, I heard many Voices in the Air, sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other: Withdrawing my self a little I found Mademoiselle des Pagnon an eminent Merchants Wife accompanied with many other Women of the Neighbourhood; I asked them from whence they came; They told me from the bank of the River *Le Gaur*, which passes by this City near the New Mill. I asked if they had heard the Singing of Psalms, they replied yea, and that it seemed to come from the place called *Posterle*. I told them I came from thence, and had heard those Voices in

in the Air which seemed to me to go from one side of the New Mill, and we all agreed that they were in the Air, and that they never had heard voices so pleasant and charming. My Father who had changed his Religion about two years before, accompanied with a Papist called *Marshal Maresque*, inquired of those Women the truth of it, they replied yes, and I heard it too said my Father, the Marshal added, That he had never heard better singing, *Let men say what they will, for my part, said he, I am persuaded that it is a true singing of Psalms.* They heard it in another place called *De Part*, near to Orthez. I also add that I heard a Prohibition published to all sorts of Persons, at the sound of a Trumpet by the Crier of the City called *Mouleres*, forbidding any to go out at night to hear the singing of Psalms, under the penalty of Imprisonment, In witness whereof I have Signed the present Certificate, as it was desired of me. Given Nov. 22. 1686. Signed Peter Mauverg of Orthez in Bearne aged 23 years.

One Monsieur Bergerit hath declared under his Signet this which follows. 'About the Month of September last 1685. being in my Mothers House, she told me that the Evening before they had heard singing of Psalms in the Air. I believed nothing thereof, but went away to Bed because I was weary, this was about eight at night; about half an hour after, some of the Neighbours came to inquire whether I was so great a Fool to sing Psalms, considering the strict Prohibition against it, and at the same instant my Mother came to tell me that Psalms were sung in the Air. I awaking heard this singing, and thought it had been in the Garden belong to the House, I arose and went into the street *Moncade* at Orthez, where

all the Neighbourhood were come together, and we heard the singing of Psalms repeated two or three several times. Signed *Bergerit*. 1686.

John de la Bordette hath declared under his Signet that which follows. 'About September last 1685. being in my own house at *Ortbez*, and having heard that Psalms were sung, I went into the street about eight in the Evening, and heard in the Air Voices which formed a Vocal Musick perfectly like the singing of Psalms, but was not able to distinguish what Psalm it was, and many Persons of the Neighbourhood were Witnesses of the same; Another time about ten as Night, I, with several other Persons heard the same singing among the Vines. Signed *John de la Bordette*.

Madamoiselle Deformalagues hath declared under Signet in these words. 'I underwritten do declare in the presence of God, that being at *Ortbez* in *Bearn* the place of my Habitation. I heard clearly at three several times in October 1685. this which follows. On a Friday in that month, about eight or nine at night, being in my Chamber, some Neighbours called me with earnestness saying that I must hasten to hear the Angels singing Psalms. I hastily went out of the house, and going to the street *St. Gill* I there found a great number of People who had ran from all parts to hear this Heavenly Musick; And at that instant my Ears were entertained with a melody so ravishing that I never heard any thing like it. I could very well discern it to be in the Air and Tune of our Psalms, which were sung admirably well, I heard many Persons say they could plainly and distinctly hear the first verse of the 42 Psalm,

Like as the Hart doth breath and bray
The Well Springs to obtain,

So

So doth my Soul desire alway

With thee Lord to remain, &c.

There were others that confirmed the same, and assured us moreover, that they had heard the whole Psalm sung.

Less grief it is to be exil'd

From mine own House than thine.

Oh! how I wish t'approach the place

Where all thy Glories shine.

This makes my sorrow to increase,

And Tears become my Food,

To hear my Foes reproach my Faith

And say, Where's now thy God?

Past joys renew my grief, to think

How to thine House we came

In Troops to Feast and Praises sing

In Consort to thy name, &c.

'I confess I only heard a charming Musick which represented a great number of Voices that agreed exceeding well, but I could not distinguish the words. There was one that raised his Voice above the rest, and made himself observed when the rest had done. After I had a long while heard this Melody with ravishment, I perceived that these Voices drew off, and abated by little and little till they were insensibly lost in the Air. The same Evening returning to my own House, and discoursing at the Gate with many of my Neighbours of the marvellous things we had heard, on a sudden the same Voices again saluted our Ears, and filled us with new delight for a quarter of an hour, and then withdrew as before. The Tuesday following in the Evening being with one of my Relations at the Door of my own House, we both heard a great number of Voices in the Air, which resounded in our Ears, and made themselves heard.

heard with the greatest clearness; Upon which I ran hastily to a Popish Physitian who lodged in my House, and was that year one of the Magistrates of *Orthez*, to invite him to hear this Divine Melody, who following me, pretended to hear nothing, though the night being calm and serene the singing founded clearly. A while after the Voices reinforced themselves, whereupon I pressed him to tell me whether he heard them, *It is true*, said he aloud, *I hear very lovely singing, I think I hear the voice of such and such a one*, naming several Persons in *Orthez* that sung very well; I replied, *Monsieur if men hold their peace the very Stones will speak*; But he as if troubled at the confession he had made, complains, *Alas I observe here a crafty Wile of the Devil, he causes these Voices to be heard in the Air to keep the World in Error, and hinder this poor People from Converting and Imbracing the Catholick Faith*. I asked him, whether he had ever heard the Devil sung the Praises of God; he smiled, and retired hastily to his lodgings; Nevertheless we bless God for his great goodness towards us in admonishing us of our duty by these heavenly voices, who melodiously sung those Holy Hymns that we were wont to sound forth in our Church, which was then laid wast and destroy'd. I protest before God that these things are so as I have reported them, and I am very glad to make known these truths for the edification of all those that fear the Lord, In Testimony whereof I subscribe my self at *Amsterdam, Sept. 4. 1686. V. Deformalagnes*.

I shall next insert the Memorial of *Monfieur de Brassalay*, a Gentleman of Honour, and acknowledged such by all that know him. Some days before the Interdiction of the Churches of *Bearn*, there were

were many Persons that heard the singing of Psalms in the City of *Orthez*. The first that heard it was *Lichagaray Brunier* a Lawyer, revolted some years since, the most malignant of the Persecutors, and who continually stir'd up troubles to those of the reformed Religion. He rose from his Bed to tell the Curate that there was an Assembly of People who sung Psalms without the City. He also went to a Serjeant named *Gowlan* to conduct him to the place where he thought to surprize them, but this Popish Serjeant having laid his Ear to the Window, said there was nothing to be done, for he plainly perceived the singing was in the Air. Afterward it was often heard for above a month by divers Persons, both by night and day, Among others *M. Canneille* an Elder of the Church of *Orthez* protested to me that sitting reading on the Rivers Bank about a mile from the City, he heard a great singing of Psalms on that side the Church stands, which is in the midst of the City, and not at all doubting but it was an ordinary Assembly met together to Evening Prayers, which was then very numerous because of the hazardous conjuncture, and consisted at the least of two or three thousand Souls, he hastned thither, and heard a great singing of Psalms all along till he was entered into the City, but finding the Doors shut, the Neighbours told him that it was not yet the hour of Prayer. It is to no purpose to alledge that they sung in some Cavern or Cave, for there is nothing but Houses, Vineyards, Meadow and Fields thereabout, and the strict prohibition against the Protestants singing of Psalms, under very severe penalties, makes it highly improbable. Moreover this Elder told me that he never heard more lofty singing in the Church.

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This Monsieur *Brassalay* declared as a most certain truth in the presence of many honest men.

After the Church of *Orthez* was razed to the Ground this singing ceased till about *October* following, and then was again heard by most of that City, and by many that came out of the Countrey to Market and staid till night on purpose. It ordinarily happened about the same hour, between eight and nine at night, some heard the words others the Tune of the Psalm, and there is scarce a House in *Orthez* of which some of the Family hath not heard it. Monsieur *Brunier* aforementioned went one night with two or three others to the usually place without the City, and they all three heard the singing for a long time over their heads the Tune of the 128 Psalm, whereof they could hear distinctly these words.

Toward thy Holy Temple I
Will look and worship thee,
And praised with my thankful voice
Thy Holy name shall be.
Even for thy loving kindness sake,
And for thy Truth withal,
For thou thy Name hast by thy Word
Advanced over all.

Dr. *Faur* a Physitian and Magistrate of the City another Papist, heard it divers times, but their malice made them say they were Sorcerers and Devils. A young Damsel of *Moncade* heard this singing being in her Bed; She arose and caused above 50 persons to go out, who having heard it, fell on their Knees, and wept through the Joy they conceived to hear such incomparable melody in the Air, which continued above half an hour. The place of this singing was raised above the City, even as a very high Mountain, and the People heard

heard this singing over their heads, as if it had been in the Clouds. I have heard an honest man make this Relation, who poured out tears when he spake of it. The same thing I heard from other places. To conclude it is impossible to doubt of a truth which the far greatest part of the Inhabitants of *Orthez* are able to certify. And to which the Parliament of *Bearn* have also given their Testimony by a Decree which forbids men to go hear these Psalms, or to say they have heard it on the forfeiture of 500 Crowns, and the Consuls of *Orthez* published these Ordinances in their City.

The same thing hath happened in *Cevennes*. As this Countrey is full of Mountains where there are Echo's which multiply and return the voice, and as Night Assemblies have continually been made there, where they sing Psalms with a loud voice, therefore the relations of singings may seem the more doubtful. But the Affair of *Orthez* which is a Countrey close and without Mountains being well proved, I see no reason (saith Monsieur *Furieu*) to question that of *Cevennes*, and shall therefore without scruple produce the Certificates which come from that Country.

The first runs thus. 'I Certifie that one of my Sisters wrote to me on Feb. 8. last, from a place called *Collet* in *Cevennes* where she then was, in these words. My dear Brother, you would be informed touching the singing of Psalms, which men have told you they hear in this Country, there is nothing more true. Monsieur the late Baron of *Cedorve* heard it two or three hours in the Night with his whole Family. I my self, and almost all the World in this Country have heard this Voice, but we have not been able to discern whether they were Psalms or no, It seems to us that

that it is a complaint, and even now at the hour
 I write to you I hear and am sensible of it. *La
 Roquette* Minister of *Manoblet* in *Cevennes*. Given
 at *Lausanna* March 30. 1686.

The second Certificate. I attest that Monsieur
 of the Dark Valley, a Gentleman of *Cevennes*, liv-
 ing near *Sir John de Gardonengue* writ to me Sept.
 17. 1685. this which follows. We see strange
 things in all the places of the *Cevennes*, we hear
 singing of Psalms in the Night as if it were in the
 Church. Wednesday last I was lying alone in my
 Chamber, and about midnight I heard upon the
 Roof a voice very shrill which awoke me, and af-
 terwards five or six other voices that assisted it,
 and they sung five or six verses of the fifth Psalm.

O Lord unto my words give ear,

My Meditation weigh,

My King, my God, my crying hear

For unto thee I pray.

Thou wilt destroy them that are proud.

To utter Tales and Lies,

God will abhor the Bloody one

And such as fraud devise.

But to thy House I will draw near

In thine abundant Grace;

And Worship in thy holy fear

Toward thy holy place.

Lord lead me in thy Righteousness.

Because of all my Foes,

And thy strait paths, lest I transgress

Before my face disclose.

For in their mouth no truth appears,

Their Heart with mischief throngs,

Their Throats are open Sepulchres,

They flatter with their Tongues.

Destroy

Destroy them Lord, destroy them all,

Let them be overthrown

And into just destruction fall

By Counsels of their own.

And let them be cast out and queld

For their excessive sin,

For they have wickedly rebell'd

Against the Lord therein.

But let O Lord all those rejoyce

That put their Trust in thee,

Let them with shouts lift up their voice

And ever joyful be.

Let them likewise that love thy name,

Which is their confidence,

Be ever joyful in the same

Since thou art their defence.

For to the Righteous man no doubt

Thou wilt thy blessing yield,

And ever compass him about

With favour as a shield.

All those of the House heard it many times.

The said Monsieur of the Dark Valley confirmed

me in this belief by a second Letter Jan. 27. 1685.

that this singing doth continue constantly. The

said Monsieur adds, Now the beating of a Drum

is heard, as if Souldiers were marching, and this

is heard at mid-day in many places. Signed Bar-

june Minister of St. *Marselle* in *Cevennes*, now fled

to *Lausanna* in *Switzerland*.

The third Certificate. Toward the end of Sep-

tember last being with Monsieur d'Esperies a Gen-

tleman of merit, who is of *Vigan* in *Cevennes*, and

we flying to the Castle of a Gentleman of our

friends, named M. de *Montualian*, we heard in the

Air a considerable number of Drums. Five or six

days after being with the same Gentleman at Ab-

latatz

latax in *Cevennes*, whither my Family was Fled for refuge; we heard in the Air a Holy Harmony, Singing the Holy Praises of God. This I certify to be true, forasmuch as I heard it. Signed *Saligne de Marnis in Cevennes*.

The fourth Certificate is the Extracts of two Letters written to *Lausanna* to *Mademoiselle Louise des Vignoles*, by her Cousin *M. Jane des Vignoles*. Dated Jan. 3. 1686. 'How happy are you my dear Cousin that you can Pray and Sing the Praises of God in Publick, when in the meantime so many good Souls have their Souls stopped, and dare not discover what passes in their mind; But as to the Business of Singing the Praises of God, it is necessary that I speake to you of the Miracle which makes so much noise in this Countrey, which is that since the entire loss of our Churches and our Pastors, there has been heard in the Air Voices and Sounds of Instruments very melodious, and that which is most extraordinary is, that many Persons distinguish the Tunes of the Psalms; and I can assure you of the truth thereof, since I my self have distinguished more than thirty; It has been told me that my Brother (*M. de Mont Vaillant*) distinguishes them all perfectly well. Can you imagine that we hear these Voices Night and Day, and that we can so much as doubt that they are Troops of Angels which God sends to us for our consolation, to assure us that he hath not utterly forsaken us, and that our deliverance is at hand; God grant that we may make profit by these things. I had forgotten to tell you that the noise of a Drum is here heard so clearly that no Body can doubt thereof, no more then about the Singing of Psalms; for there are so many Persons of good

good understandings convinced thereof, that we ought to give up our selves to the power of Truth. I do avow that the thing passes all imagination, but be assured that all care imaginable has been taken to prevent delusion.

To conclude, saith my Author, how ought we distressed Protestants to give thanks to God that he approves our Worship by a sign so considerable? Let not our Enemies tell us that all this is nothing but delusion, for all Illusions come from the Father of Lies, and who hath the Praises of God in horror and detestation; In short, behold this Event as a happy Presage, God will not suffer our Voices nor our Songs to die: The Angels have taken them up, and will shortly restore them that we our selves made sound them forth in the Air: The time of our deliverance is at hand, and the Spirit of Life will return, when the Spirit of Repentance and Piety is re-entred into our Souls.

LX. In 1687. *Octob. 20.* The *London Gazett* gives a sad Relation of another Earthquake in the Kingdom of *Peru* in *America*, whereby the City of *Lima* was totally overthrown, and not one House left standing, burying many of the Inhabitants un-its ruins; At the same time *Callao*, *Fanette*, *Pisco*, *Chancay*, *Los Florillos*, &c. Most of them Sea-port Towns were destroyed by an Inundation of the Sea, which carried several Ships above nine Miles into the Countrey; and great numbers of People and Cattel were drowned, there being found when the water fell, at one place near the Seaside above five thousand People dead, and every dry more were found; so that no account could be given of their number.

LXI. In 1688. A dreadful Earthquake happened at *Naples* in *Italy*, which was attended with the

the rage and roarings of Mount *Vesuvius*; of which the *London Gazette* gives likewise the following Account in a Letter from that City; Dated *June 8*, On *Saturday June 5*, about the twenty second hour happened here a terrible Earthquake, though it lasted not long, which frightening the Inhabitants out of their Houses with the terror of an inevitable destruction, they betook themselves to the *Piazza's* and open publick places of the City. The old College of the *Jesuits* was ruin'd by it, also the great Chappel of their New Colledge, together with three other Chapels adjoining. Three of the Fathers were killed there, besides many others whose numbers are not yet known. The Front of another great Church of the *Jesuits* opened in many cracks, and the great Tower or Steeple seemed ready to fall. In the *Theatins* Convent of the Holy Apostles, a whole Dormitory fell down, besides other considerable damage they received. And the magnificent Arch erected before the Church of *St. Paul*, belonging to the said Fathers fell, together with those great and ancient Columns that formerly made part of the Temple *Castor and Pollux*; there were remaining only four of them standing, and those in a tottering condition; Out of these ruins there have been already dug 19. Persons that were dead, and there was reason to fear that the mischief might have been much greater, it being so near to a publick Market where there were great throngs of People. The Walls of the great Church of *St. Dominick* opened in many places, and great part of the Refectory fell down, as also part of adjoining Palace, where many were killed; several other Churches of *Augustins*, &c. were ruin'd; and in short there is scarce a Palace or House

House that has not received some considerable damage. This occasioned very devout Processions of Persons of all Ranks. The next day was another great Shock which threw down many of the Houses that were before the most weakned; and Yesterday there was another perceived, but without much damage; but this day we have felt nothing of it. However the Processions continue in great numbers, and the Persons of Quality are all retired from hence. In the Neighbourhood of *Udico*, a City sixteen Miles distant from hence, a mountain opened, and a Courier from *Benevento* a City belonging to the Pope, brings an Account that it was all ruin'd, and that of Six thousand Inhabitants there were but few left alive; The Arch-bishops Palace there was thrown down, and the Arch-bishop himself drawn out of the ruins, being hurt in his Head and Arm. And there are Accounts of the like damages in several other places.

In a Letter from *Rome June 12. 1688*. There was this further Account; We have had nothing considerable to entertain us here this Week but the sad Relations of the terrible Earthquakes at *Naples*, and several places about it. It happened at *Naples* on *Sunday* last about 21. hours and a half (which at the same instant was perceived by a great many here) On *Sunday* too it returned. Several Churches, Palaces, and Houses are ruin'd, among the rest the famous Church of the *Jesuits*, reckoned the finest in *Italy*, is all tumbled down, except the Walls and the High Altar. The particular number of those killed and buried in the ruins is not known. The last Letters say, many of the Inhabitants lie abroad under Tents, in Couches, &c. and continually Prayers, Processions, publick Penances, &c. are performed; and every

every one runs about crying *Miserecordia*, Mercy, Mercy, Mercy; Three Ships were Sunk in the Harbour, and the Water in the Wells rose many handfuls. *Benevento* is almost totally ruined and of ten thousand Inhabitants, they say there remains scarce six hundred alive. Cardinal *Orsini* their Arch-bishop was taken out of the Ruins alive, but hurt. Several other Places and Seats are quite ruined and most of the Inhabitants swallow'd up. This City and the Countrey hereabout just felt the Shock but received no harm. The damage is said to be above fifty Millions.

LXII. In the same year and Month, 1688. The *London Gazette* gave an Account of a dreadful Earthquake and Fire at *Smyrna*; In a Letter from an English Gentleman at *Constantinople*, Dated July 8. 1688. As followeth. On June thirty between 11. and 12. at Noon there happened at *Smyrna* a violent Earthquake, which in a Minute threw down many, and shattered all the Houses in that City; It reached all the adjacent Parts, and *Motolone* and *Scio*, where it did some small harm: and at the same time that day it was felt here, though the force of it being spent by the distance, it was not generally taken notice of. About four hours after the Earthquake, a Fire broke out in the *Frank-Street* from an House called the *Genovese-House*, which by the strength of the Wind, and in that Consternation, having no opposition soon consumed the *Frank-Street* and all the Town, except the Skirts and the Houses on the side of the Hill, which stand scattering and not contiguous. The most moderate computation of People destroyed is 5000. Some make it double the number, of which 400. *Jews*, and one of the most famous *Chaccham Rabbies* of the East, *Aaron Aben*

Aben Haim, who as he was much revered by them in his life, so particular lamentations are made here for his Death. The Metropolitane of *Smyrna* with some Papa's, went to the Church to Prayers, and were killed by its falling on them. The Patriarch also of *Alexandria* had the same Fate. And many poor People were buried in the ruins before they could get help. Of the French Nation, only the Consul was killed. Of the Dutch one Merchant: And of the English three, and several others were bruised and hurt, but not dangerously. The Consul and half of the Nation, it being Saturday, were abroad, but perceiving the Earthquake came immediately to the City, and all went aboard their Ships in Port. In the interim betwixt the shock of the Earthquake, and the breaking out of the Fire, great quantities of Goods were saved. So that the English as to their loss in Merchandise have escaped much better than the Dutch, who had no Ships in Port. All the lower Ware-houses in *Viferchan* are saved, but those above Stairs, either by Windows left open, or by the Fire getting in at the Clefts of the Walls suffered much and are most fallen. The Castle at *St. Giacomo-Point* is quite sunk under ground. A Capigee Bassa is sent from hence to *Smyrna* to look after the Grand Seigniors Interest in taking the Estates of those dead without Heirs, which will add affliction to affliction, but the publick necessities here are great. And the Lord Ambassador of *England* has sent down an Officer, with command from the Grand Visier to be assisting particularly to our Nation in looking after their concerns.

LXIII. In December following several Earthquakes happened about *Naples* and *Beneventum*, but

but without such unfortunate Accidents as attended them some months before. Nevertheless that accident being fresh in memory, it is not to be imagined in what a consternation the People were, and how they fell to their Prayers in several Churches. The Monks in those quarters made use of the opportunity to preach, That the end of the World was at hand, and for that reason endeavoured to awaken the People to give Alms. But in regard (saith my Author) that the People are not now to be imposed upon as formerly, when they used such ways to rear those costly Foundations that are scattered over all Europe, they resolved to keep what they had; not finding the Monks made better use of their Money than they themselves could do.

I suppose it will not be deemed presumption to assert, that these dreadful shakings of the Earth, did seem plainly to preface those Convulsions that happened soon after, and may presignify good as well as bad Events; Not only the happy Revolutions in these three Kingdoms, but also the horrid ruins, devastations, and miseries which the ambition and barbarity of the French King has occasioned lately in Christendom, and which do still continue.

LXIV. Disful was the Calamity and Judgment which befel the Inhabitants of the Island of *Jamaica* in the West-Indies upon Tuesday June 7. 1692. by a dreadful Earthquake. For about eleven a Clock in the morning the Earth suffered a great Trepidation, which in a minutes time was increased to that degree that several Houses began to tumble down, and in six or seven minutes or a quarter of an hour at the most, made terrible havock and devastation. It threw down almost all the Houses,

Houses, Churches, Sugar-works, Mills and Bridges through the whole Country. It tore the Rocks and Mountains, and threw them into the Sea, but *Port Royal* had much the greatest share in this astonishing Judgment of God. The Minister of that place relates, That the same Morning he had been at Prayers in the Church, which he never neglected, to keep up some shew of Religion amongst a most ungodly, debauched People, and was gone to a place hard by the Church where the Merchants use to meet, and where the President of the Council was, designing to dine with one Captain *Ruden*, but his House upon the first concussion sunk first into the Earth and then into the Sea, with his Wife and Family and some others that were come to dine with him, but the Minister staying some time with the President, escaped the danger, yet soon after they found the ground rowling and moving under their feet; *Lord Sir*, says the Minister, *What's this?* He replied very composedly, being a sober grave man, *It is an Earthquake, be not afraid it will soon be over, but it increased, and they heard the Church and Tower fall, upon which they ran to save themselves.* The Minister quickly lost the President and made toward *Morgans Fort*, which being a wide open place he thought to be securest from falling Houses, but as he came near, he saw the Earth open and swallow up a multitude of People, and the Sea mounting in over the Fortifications; He then laid aside all thoughts of escaping, and resolved to make towards his own Lodgings, and there to meet death in as good a posture as he could, and in his way was forced to run through two or three very narrow streets, where the Houses and Walls fell on each side of him, and some Bricks came rowling over his Shoes, but none hurt him.

him. When he came to his Lodgings he found all things safe, not a Picture, of which there were several fair ones in his Chamber, displaced. He went to the Balcony to view the street in which his House stood, and saw never an House down there, nor the Ground so much as crackt. The People seeing him there, cryed out for him to come down and pray with them. When he came into the street every one laid hold on his Cloths and embraced him, so that with their fear and kindness he was almost stifled. He persuaded them at last to kneel down and make a large ring, which they did, he pray'd with them near an hour, when being almost spent with the heat and the exercise, they brought him a Chair, the Earth working all the while with new motions and tremblings like the rowling of the Sea, insomuch that when he was at Prayer he could hardly keep himself upon his Knees. By that time he had been about half an hour with them, aggravating their sins and provocations, and seriously exhorting them to repentance, there came some Merchants of the place who desired him to go aboard some Ship in the Harbour & refresh himself having got a Boat to carry him off, so when he came to the Sea, he saw it had swallowed up the Wharf, with all those goodly brick Houses upon it, most of them as fine as those in Cheapside, and two intire Streets beyond that. He walked upon the tops of some houses that lay level with the surface of the Water, from whence he got first into a Canoo, and then into a Long-Boat, which put him a Board a Ship called the *Siam Merchant*, where he found the President safe, who was overjoyed to see him, they could not sleep that night for the returns of the Earthquake, almost every hour, which made all the Guns in the Ship jar and rattle. The next day he

he went from Ship to Ship to visit those that were bruised and dying, and to pray with them, and likewise to do the last Office at the sinking of several Corps that came floating from the Point. The shakings of the Earth still continued with Thunder and Lightning and foul Weather, and the People continued still as desperately wicked as before, for that very day this terrible Earthquake happened, as soon as night came on, a Company of lewd Rogues called Privateers fell to breaking open Warehouses and Houses deserted. To rob and rille their Neighbours whilst the Earth trembled under them, and some of the Houses fell on them in the Act, and those audacious Whores that remained upon the place were as impudent as ever. He went again ashore to pray with the bruised and dying people, and to Christen Children, where he met too many Drunk and Swearing, he did not spare them, nor the Magistrates neither, who had suffered wickedness to grow to such a height. In the last Sermon he preached in the Church, he plainly represented to them the danger of their impenitence and wickedness, with so much zeal and earnestness that many now confessed, It was more like a Prophecy than a Sermon. He says he had many times before, an impulse upon his Spirit to Preach those things which he never premeditated at home, and could not, he thought, do otherwise. The morning of this dreadful day was very fair and clear, affording no suspicion of the least evil, but in the space of three minutes about half an hour after eleven in the morning, *Port-Royal* the fairest Town of all the English Plantations the best Emporium and Mart of that part of the World, exceeding in its riches, plentiful of all good things, was shaken and shattered to pieces, and sunk into and covered

for the greatest part by the Sea. Few of the Houses that stood were left whole. So that by their falling, the opening of the Earth, and the Inundation of the Waters, it is reckoned there were lost fifteen hundred Persons. The Sunday after, the Minister Preached to them in a Tent, not daring to venture among the shattered Houses, the People were overjoyed to see him among them, and wept bitterly when he Preached to them. It was a sad sight to see all that Harbour, one of the fairest and goodliest in *America*, covered with the dead bodies of People of all conditions, floating up and down without burial; for the great and famous Burial-place called the Pallisadoes, was destroyed by the Earthquake, and the Sea washed the Carcasses of those that were buried out of their Graves, their Tombs being dashed to pieces by the Earthquake, of which there were hundreds in that place. Multitudes of Rich men were utterly ruined, whilst many that were poor, by watching opportunities and searching the wrack'd and sunk Houses, even almost while the Earthquake lasted, and terror and amazement was upon all the considerable People, have gotten great riches. From *St. Ann's* there was news that above a thousand Acres of Wood-land were turned into the Sea, and carried with it whole Plantations, but no place suffered like *Port-Royal*, where whole streets were swallowed up by the opening of the Earth, and the Houses and Inhabitants went down together. Some of them were driven up again by the Sea which arose in those breaches and wonderfully escaped. Some were swallowed up to the neck, and then the Earth shut upon them and squeezed them to death, and in that manner several were left buried, with their heads above ground, only some Heads the Dogs had eaten

eaten. Others were covered with dust and Earth by the remaining People to avoid the stench. Great bellowing and noises were heard sometime after in the Mountains, which made them apprehensive of an Eruption of Fire; but thanks be to God, no ill Event hath yet succeeded.

By a second Letter from another worthy Divine and a Minister of the parish of *Vere* in that Island, some Leagues from *Port-Royal*; we have this further Relation of that tremendous Judgment, Dated *June 30. 1692.* On *Tuesday June 7.* about 11. in the morning it pleased the Just God to visit us with a terrible Earthquake, which continued with much violence and terror for about a quarter of an hour, as most say, but in my opinion not above 6. or 7. minutes, in which time it overthrew all the Brick and Stone Buildings in the Countrey, whereof several in my own Parish, which now are either levelled with the ground, or standing Monuments of the wrath of God, so shattered and torn that they are irreparable; while these were tumbling, the Earth opened in my Parish in multitudes of places, and though their dire Chasms spewed out Water to a considerable height above ground, in such quantities in some places that it made our Gullies run on a sudden, though before exceeding dry, insomuch that some were afraid of being overwhelmed at once by the River and Sea joyning together to swallow up the Countrey; these gaping mouths being no less than 12, 20. or more foot deep under the Earth, and above two miles up in the Countrey, especially nigh the River in the purest mould, which had not Clay nor other consolidating Matter beneath to oppose the force of the Fountains of the Deep breaking up: for where that was, we do not find any cracks of

the Earth at all: And yet it pleased God that we in this Parish have escaped the danger much better than our Neighbour Parishes; for happening to content our selves with mean and low-built Houses, generally of Timber and Boarded, or with Cratches set deep in the ground and plaistered, such Houses are generally standing. So that we have means to assist one another, whilst in other parts hundreds of Souls are cast out of their dwellings, and have not a place to hide their Heads in, except in Booths and Tents which they have since built to shade themselves from the Sun. Our noted Town of *St. John de la Vega*: Or, *The Spanish Town* is utterly down to the ground, and its Church devoured in the same Ruins; Our Magazine and only Store-House of *Port-Royal* is three parts swallowed up in the Sea, Ships and Shallops now riding at Anchor where great numbers of fine Fabricks stood not long since. Many eminent Merchants worth thousands, have scarce any thing left but the blue Linnen on their backs; several are dead, either overwhelmed with their Houses, or drowned in the Sea, which flowed in suddenly upon them. For while they fled from the Sea, the Earth devoured them in her gaping Jaws, or they were killed with the falling Houses; and while they fled from the gaping Chasms of the Earth, or the tottering buildings, the Sea met and swept them away. A whole Street called the *Wharf*, (where most of the noted Merchants lived, and where much of the Planters goods were landed, for convenience of Sale and Shipping; particularly Sugar and Cotton) sunk at once from one end to the other with a general crack at the very beginning of the Earthquake, together with two Forts Guns, &c. thereon; and all that were upon or nigh it

it perished in an instant without warning: and soon after while the People were in the greatest horror and consternation imaginable, not knowing whither to fly for safety, two or three more Streets in their whole length rotted and fell, and were immediately sunk, ground and all together deep into the Sea, as far as the *Jews Street*; All the Upper part of the Town, with the Church, and all above the Pallisadoes is under Water, even the very Pallisadoes it self where their burying place was, is now no longer Earth but Sea; and the dead Corps floated from thence to all parts of the Harbour. The Houses that yet remain are many of them so rent and torn, and others so deeply sunk into the Water, even up to their Balconies, that they are unserviceable. The Wall at the Pallisadoes is utterly ruin'd, with the Port thereto belonging; and though *Morgans Line*, and *Walkers Fort* yet stand, they are sorely shaken and rent, and so sunk they are not tenable, the whole place that is yet above Water sinking daily by those Earthquakes we have ever since had; sometimes 4, 5, 6. times, more or less in 24. hours. My self while I am now writing, expecting when the Earth will tremble under me, though in other parts of the Countrey through Gods mercys we do not hear of any further damage since the first. The reputed number of the Dead, (for perhaps there will never be an exact Account) is reckoned about 1500 persons, besides Negro's, who are thought to be 6. or 700 more, a multitude of whose Black Corps floated many days from one side of the Harbour to the other, which caused such an intollerable stench that the dead were like to destroy the Living; till at last some were sunk, and others dispersed by the Sea-breeze.

Immediately upon the Cessation of the Earthquake, your heart would abhor to hear of the Robberies and Violences committed in an instant upon the place, by the vilest and basest of the People. No man could call any thing his own, for they that were strongest and most wicked seized what and whose they pleased without regard to the Owners, Gold and Silver, Jewels, Plate or Goods was all their own if they could lay hands on them. Nothing but breaking open Houses, rushing into Shops, and taking from the owners what they pleased even before their faces; Yea Robbing them of Money and goods in the open Street, as they were carrying them to other places for security: whilst others in Canoes, Wherries, Ships, boats, &c. were plundering Chests, Boxes, Scriptores, &c. of what they could find in them upon the Water: Even the very Slaves thinking it their time of Liberty, committed many barbarous Insolencies and Robberies, till they were suppressed by the Death of some and punishment of others. And indeed our first fears were concerning our Blacks, those irreconcilable and yet intestine Enemies of ours, who are no otherwise our Subjects than as the whip makes them, who seeing our strongest Houses demolisht, our Army broken, and hearing of the destruction of our greatest dependency the Town of *Port-Royal*, might in hopes of Liberty be stirred up to rise in Rebellion against us; which is a War always the more terrible, by how much there is no quarter given in it, but they kill and slay all the Whites, Men, Women and Children that they can Conquer; But God be praised those fears are now blown over. Many days did these Depredations last, especially upon the Water, where the dead were Rob'd of what they

they had about them, some stript, others searched, their Pockets pick'd, their Fingers cut off for their Rings, their Gold Buttons taken out of their Shirts, and then they were turn'd adrift again. From thence was taken all manner of stores that would swim, every one taking that for his own which he could lay his hands on, as Pork, Beef, Mackril, Saltfish, Coaca, Candle, Soap, Wine, Beer, Brandy, and a vast deal of other things, not to be thought of, or reckoned up. So that the richest became poorest, and the meanest of the people were enriched by the losses of others, to estimate which seems as difficult as to reckon the number of the People lost, and destroyed.

Port-Royal in its flourishing condition was a famous Empory and Mart Town for the West Indies and the Archinto being settled there, a very large share of the riches of *Mexico* and *Peru* were brought thither, and vast sums of Coin and Bullion yearly transported for *England*, to the great enriching of the Jamaican Merchants and Factors, so that it was hard to compute what was lost. but many think, at least the value of four hundred Thousand Pound at *Port-Royal* only; Yet in the midst of this woful Calamity, some People were miraculously preserved from Death, being swallowed down into the Bowels of the Earth alive, yet spued up again and saved by the violent Eruption of Water through those Gaps; Others, as themselves affirm, (if they were then capable of knowing what was done to them,) were swallowed up in one place, and by the rushing of the Waters to and fro, by reason of the Agitation of the Earth at that time, were cast up again by another Channel at places far distant. But the general means of Preservation was by Peoples flying as fast as they could toward the back Sea-side, for speedily getting aboard the Ships in the Harbour, which were crowded with Men, Women and Children: Among others a Man of War, the *Swallow* then in Harbour was so damaged by the Fall of the Houses that she became utterly unserviceable, and Twelve Shallops were sunk by the same means.

Likewise *Ligania*, the first and principal Town for Planting, and imitating if not exceeding, the stately Buildings of

Port-Royal, is now brought to most terrible Desolation, and its fine New Built and yet Unfinished Church buried in the same ruin with the Houses. Above which place the Costly Blue Mountains lift up their heads, but are now so rent and torn, that they are fearful to behold and stand like lasting marks of Divine Wrath; which hath also happened in other parts of the Countrey which is very Hilly in the middle; so that by the fall of a Mountain into the Channel of the River which supplies both this Town and *Port-Royal*, with Water, the River became dry for sixteen hours together, to the terror of the Inhabitants, fearing the Desertion as well as Desolation of the place, till it afterwards Run again as formerly, and they were informed of the cause of the Stoppage of the Water for so long a time.

This, among other reasons, was the Cause why the People that were saved at *Port-Royal* were almost perished for Thirst in their deep Extremity; their own Water-casks being either ruined or swam away into the Sea, and no Boats to fetch any in that Dismal Consternation, or otherwise employed to save Peoples Lives, or to get Plunder. Or if any did go, there was no Water to be had; so that it was hard to be gotten and very dear, many paying great rates only to quench their Thirst. And yet for all these Woful Distresses, great Numbers of People are not all Reformed of their Wickedness which brought them upon us, but there is the same Whoring and Drinking, the same Cursing and Swearing, if not worse, than formerly; So that we have cause to fear the Judgment of *Sodom* may be our next punishment.

In the midst of our Distress, it pleased God to give us a Signal Victory over our Enemies the French; who happened at that time to make the Sharpest Attack upon us since the War, having Landed, as we hear, Two Hundred men on the North side of the Island, which is but weakly furnished with men, where they intrenched themselves, but were shamefully beaten out by a Vigorous Attack in the Night by a Party of about Thirty Men, who Slew Seven or Eight outright, and the rest flying to their Boats, Thirty of them were drowned; While in the mean time our Fleet, which was let out on purpose, pursuing theirs, we took one Shallop, and made them desperately blow up their great Ship; such as were saved remaining our Prisoners, and others fled home to give an Account of their overthrow.

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To conclude, God in his Displeasure remembered Mercy, for though such Numbers perished at *Port-Royal*, where they were thronged together in an Isthmus of Land; yet I cannot hear of fifty Persons both Whites and Blacks that were lost beside throughout all the Island.

Other Letters add these particulars; That this terrible Earthquake came from the North, and attacked *Port-Royal* on the Harbour side, on which was the Wharf the whole length of the place, where stood the Kings House, a Bastion of 207. Guns; *Carlisle Battery* of 119. Guns, and the Houses of the greatest Merchants; All those Sunk down in a moment from three to five fathom of Water. Some were sunk in their Houses, others buried in the Rubbish, some who were got into clear Water and could Swim were carried away with drifts of Timber and tops of Houses, driven by a steering career and there perished. Nothing else was seen but the Dead and Dying, nothing heard but Shrieks and Cries, the Living were covered with Wounds, Bruises and Blood; The Thunder Roared over their Heads, the Earth Trembled under their Feet, the Rocks and Mountains were rent in sunder, and Fire-balls fell by day and night from Heaven, so that the most hardened Atheists might have considered that there was a God who Governed the World. In short (says my Author) it is impossible for Tongue to speak or Pen to write the Sorrows and Terrors of that day, of which I myself, who escaped to a Miracle, was an Eye-witness.

Because some may be desirous to know the Names of those that perished in this terrible Calamity, I thought fit to give an Account of them who were of most note (though doubtless great numbers were lost of which no publick notice has been given.) Attorney General *Musgrove*, Provost Marshal *Reeves*, Captain *Ruden* who with his Wife and Family, with several others in it sunk first into the Earth, Captain *Agar*, Dr. *Boys*, Capt. *Waile*, Capt. *Warder* and his Family; Mr. *Nushall* and his Family, Mr. *Crofts* Family, Mr. *Alcoks* Family, Capt. *Wilison* and his Son, Dr. *Trapham* a Physician by hanging by hands upon the Rack of a Chimney, and one of his Children hanging about his Neck, were both miraculously saved in a Boat, but his Wife with the rest of his Children and Family were all lost; so was Mrs. *Robinson*, Mrs. *Gifford*, Mrs. *Enllers*, Mr. *Fyrme*, Mr. *Brown*, Mr. *Stephens*, Mr. *Reeves* and his wife, Mr. *Pryor*, Mr. *Lambert*, Mr. *Atwell*, Mrs. *Radburn* and her Family, Mr. *Ryvers* and his Family, Mrs.

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Eylin and her Child, Mrs. Elizabeth Beckford, Sir James Goshops Daughter, Mrs. Dowingtons Child, Capt. Cunnings Capt. Tokely, Capt. Martin, Capt. Woody, Mr. Nash, Mr. Meares, Mr. George Philips, Mr. Norbery's Wife, Mr. Jonathan Wood, Mrs. Corbet, Collonel Read, Collonel Reeves's Lady, Mr. Magirah, Mr. Joss Child, Mr. Diggins, Cap. Watson, Mr. Stockton and Family, Mr. Ralph Knight's Widow and Neice, Mrs. Sweeting, Mrs. Susanna Carson, Mr. Keene, Mr. Hellinwood and Family, Mr. John Lake and Wife, Mr. John Perks Wife and Child, Mr. Hayward and Family, Mr. Dean, Mr. William Turner, Mr. Waits and Mr. Beckfords two Daughters.

LXV. In the same year 1692. Sept. 8. an Earthquake was felt in London, and in several parts of Essex, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, &c. as Sheerness, Sandwick, Deal, Maidstone, Portsmouth, &c. the People leaving their houses in many places least they should fall on their heads, but it lasted only a minute. It shook Leeds Castle in Yorkshire so violently that all in the Castle, even the Lady herself went out of it, and expected its falling. A Person being in the Field hard by, the ground shook so under him that he could not stand, and being forced to lye down on the Ground was so tossed up and down, that he received several bruises. At Maidstone in Kent the people generally got out of their houses fearing they would fall. It happened at London about four minutes past two, and was felt in most part of the Dutch and Spanish Netherlands, as also in Germany, France, &c. The account from Holland runs thus. On Sept. 8. between two or three a Clock in the Afternoon all Holland was sensible of a trembling of the Earth which lasted about three minutes. The hog, or jolting, which it caused three times one after another, was not violent, for it did no damage, but it was plainly perceptible and very much alarm'd the People: At Middleburg in Zealand it continued for some time, and caused the Earth to move so much, that the people was forced to hold by what was next in the Street, and it was feared that the Steeple of the great Church by its motions, would have fallen, it causing the Bells both there and at the Hague to jangle, and the Ships at Sea were sensible of it.

The Gazette relates, that our Glorious Sovereign King William being encamped at Gravelin in Flanders at the same time there happened an Earthquake which lasted near a minute, and was very sensible to the whole Camp. The King was then at Dinner in an old decayed House, which making very much, and every one apprehending it was ready to fall, His Majesty

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was prevailed with to rise from Table to go out of the House but the surprize was soon over.

An Ingenious Gentleman has made observation that this Earthquake affected places most on the Seacoasts, and near great Rivers, which seems to favour the opinion of another learned Person, That Water and not Wind is the cause of Earthquakes, which the Ancient Philosophers did also assert. And therefore saith he, the excessive Rains which fell that Summer, in far greater quantity than what the Earth could possibly receive, being shut up in the hollow Caverns and Bowels of the Earth, and striving to get out again, may have caused these Universal Shivering Fits in our European parts: and there is this Argument to corroborate this Conjecture, for that very great Earthquakes indeed, are many times attended with violent Inundations, the Rivers being swell'd with the Water which the Earth has let out. Another odd accident that followed this Earthquake was the effect it had upon the Spa Waters in Germany, which are so famous and so wholesom, and are now become much more improved since that happened. Spa is a Burrough in the Countrey of Liege, where there are several Mineral Fountains, to which a great number of people resort at all seasons of the Year. Among all the Springs belonging to that noted Burrough, that in the middle out of which the Bottles are fill'd that are sent over all Europe every year, is changed after a very extraordinary manner. The source of it is as big again as it was, and the Water which before was seldom clear is become extremely Limpid, and is of that strength that the Bottles if they be stop'd immediately after they are fill'd, break all in pieces, which never happened till since this late Earthquake. The rest of the Springs are also become much clearer and better. This will be a subject for those to exercise their Pens, who make it their business to dive into the secrets of Nature.

This Earthquake went not beyond 52 Degrees and 40 Minutes of Northern Latitude. How far it reached South and East is not yet certainly known. It has been traced beyond Paris to the 48 degree of North Latitude, and beyond the Rhine on the East to Frankfort, so that 260 Miles square were shaken by it. The time of its happening here, and beyond the Seas seem to vary some minutes, but that may easily be accounted for, by the difference of Meridians. So that the illustrious Dampier saith Mr. Ray, which caused this Earthquake was lodged deep in the Earth, the Caverns that contained it passing under the bottom of the Sea.

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The same year, 1692, Oct. 15. about three a Clock in the Morning they felt an Earthquake at Bale and Schaffnuse in Switzerland, which was very violent as to the motion, but did no harm at all.

LXVI. I have already given an Account of divers Earthquakes and Irruptions of the dreadful Burning Mount *Atna* in Sicily for many years past, but that which lately happened in this unfortunate Island is of so astonishing a Nature that it may be more easily imagined than exprest, and which can hardly be parallel'd in any former Age; Both for the suddenness of it, and the mighty desolations it did produce? This tremendous Earthquake (a greater than which we read not of either in Ancient or modern History) Was upon Jan. 7. 1692, At which time about ten at night, Mount *Atna* began to roar in a most horrible manner, which usually presages some dismal Calamity to ensue: Its loud bellowings continued for two days, and then began to cease and fall lower; and about an hour after the People of *Catania*, which was nearest to the Mountain felt a trembling under them for near three Minutes, during which no noise was heard from Mount *Atna*, so that it only affrighted the Inhabitants; but within a Minute after the Roaring of the Mountain was redoubled with infinite terror, and the top thereof appeared all in Flames, and the West Wind carried away a great quantity of burnt Ashes; This trembling of the 9th. was felt in the Cities of *Mineo*, *Palaonia*, *Ragusa*, *Licodia* and most of the South parts of Sicily at the same instant with that of *Catania*. But the most tremendous shake of all happened on Jan. 11. which affected the whole Island in a more or less degree; even from *Messina* North, to Cape *Coio* the farthest Southern point of Sicily; and though it continued but Six Minutes, yet made horrible Ravage throughout the whole Countrey. Under which dismal Calamity the Ancient City of *Catania*, pleasantly Seated, and full of Inhabitants of Quality, with an University, and about 24000. People, in a Minute was sunk out of sight, with a noise as loud as if thousands of Cannons had been discharged at once; and some Moments after, to the East where the City stood, a little Mountain, advanced it self several times a considerable height above the surface of the adjacent ground, but soon after became likewise invisible. The dismal bellowing of Mount *Atna* was louder both before and after, and appeared more than ever in Flames; Yet a few Minutes after *Catania* was swallowed up, there was neither Flames visible, nor for five or six

hours any Roarings to be heard. After which it began to rage and throw out more Black and Smoaky Flashes than at any time before. These particulars were observed by some Fishermen who happened at that time to be in their Boats in the Bay to the South, and within three Miles of the City, who expected every moment to have been swallowed up by the wonderful Agitation of the Waves; But upon the sinking of the imaginary Mountain aforementioned the Sea became instantly Calm; It is computed that not above 2000. of the Inhabitants of this City escaped, and those of the Gentry, who by the shake of the 9th. instant, and the hideous roaring of Mount *Atna* the 11th. in the morning, which is the usual presage of some dismal Tragedy were frighted away; all the rest of the People perishing in this lamentable ruin. In the place where *Catania* stood some heaps of rubbish and a great Lake of Water appear at a distance.

Some Letters add, That just as the Earthquake in *Catania* began to be perceived, the Sea retired about two Miles from the Shoar; which put the People into such a terrible fright, that every one betook himself to what he thought might best secure him from this dreadful Scourge of Heaven; Away they flew to the Cathedral where one of the Cannons carried about the Reliques of St *Agatha* the Patroness of that City, but neither the Reliques nor the Prayers of the Patroness could prevent the impending stroke, for the whole City was destroyed in a moment after, and all the People therein.

Under the same dismal Calamity fell the Ancient City of *Syracuse*, so famous in History that it was formerly reckoned one of the greatest in the World; having for many Centuries been the Metropolis of a Renowned Republick, and still retained some marks of its prestine Grandeur, seated in a Rich and pleasant Soil, with a strong Castle, and about 16000. Inhabitants. By the Earthquake of the 9th. many principal Houses and most part of the Castle were torn in divers places, and the next night it was again shaken with so terrible a storm of Wind, that the great Bell in one of the Churches made a noise by the violent Motion of the Steeple. Many were killed by the Tempest, and the rest fled out of the City for safety in the Night, and so escaped the horrible devastation of the 11th, wherein two thirds of the buildings were thrown down, and above 7000. People buried in the Rubbish; a great number were digged out of the Ruins, but so bruised that there was little hope of their Recovery. The Chief Magistrates

Bisstrates and People of Condition fled for security into the great Church, but there met with Death by the fall of the Stone-Roof and Steeple at once.

Neither did *Noto* though built upon a very high Rock, almost inaccessible on all sides but one narrow way, and a City which formerly contended with *Syracuse* for dignity, partake of a less dismal fate. It has one of the largest and best Harbours in *Sicily*, and is the Key of the Countrey on that side; and though the hardness of the Rock whereon it stood seem'd to secure it, yet the trembling of the 9th did very much affect it, and on the 11th laid it in heaps in a minute, all the Inhabitants, except some few who fled from thence on the 9th were buried under the ruins of their own Houses, being reckoned about 7000. a part of a Church, and very little more, remaining standing in the whole Town. *Augusta*, a City in a *Peninsula*, on the East of *Sicily*, with a large prospect to the Sea, safe Harbours and considerable Trade, was much damaged on the 9th instant and about 600 People kill'd by the downfall of the Houses. The next day the shake was renewed, which caus'd most of the Gentry to fly to the Castle for security, but there being terrible Lightning, a Magazine of Powder took Fire and about 1100 Persons who sought for safety were slain there in the destruction of the Castle which was blown up in the Air, and the following day the rest of the Town and the remaining Inhabitants by another dreadful shake, were utterly destroyed and buried in rubbish, so that of 6000 People none were left alive. *Lentini* the ancient *Leontium*, a Town of about 3000 Families was burnt to the ground on the 11th and nothing to be seen but several great heaps of Earth in the beautiful Lake upon which it stood, the Water whereof is now become brackish, and of a bituminous taste, which was before very clear. And great quantity of Fish are found dead on the shore. *Calatrin* a Town well built of Free-stone, by the shake on the 11th had a fifth part of the buildings and two Monasteries demolished, but of 7000 People 3000 made their escape. *Milina* was shaken both the 9th and 11th; on the former the Heavens were serene without the least Cloud, but on the latter there was a terrible storm of Lightning and Thunder for six hours together. At both times several houses and a large Church were overthrown, and it was judg'd about 4000 People perished. The shake of the 11th did likewise greatly shatter the Cathedral Church of *Mazara*, one of the most famous Structures in the World. The Dome above the high Altar falling, crush'd in pieces four

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curious Brass Pillars, and many Images of Saints of rare workmanship. Part of the Archbishops Palace was burnt with Lightning, and some few of the Inhabitants were killed by the fall of Houses. *Palermo*, where the Viceroy of *Sicily* keeps his Court, received some damage in its Cathedral, and another Church was ruined, which oblig'd the Viceroy, his Family, and the Archbishop to go aboard the Gallies in the Harbor, where they expected death every moment from the violent motion of the Waves, some part of the great Mole being shattered, yet not above 100 People were killed in this famous City, who lived in a Suburb built of Wood. The Town of *Pasceni* of about 200 Inhabitants was so entirely ruined, that not one house or person was saved. The spacious Valley adjoining, which was formerly full of excellent Vines being turned into a new Lake, whose Water is brackish and like Brimstone. In *Patuzolo* a place of about 1000 people all were swallowed up. *Eurlo* another Town of about the same number of Souls, had the like fate; and the Rocks adjacent which formerly were white as Marble, are now black and as if burnt with Fire and Gunpowder, and the Fountains of fair Water are become muddy and taste of Brimstone. *Sciort* a bigger Town than the three last, was totally demolished and the Inhabitants which were reckoned about 2000 so utterly destroy'd that none were left to tell the news. No more than there were at *Militello*, where of 6000 People no one is left to give tidings how or when its calamity happened. The Countrey People who dwell in the Mountains about it affirm that for three days before they could not discern the Town by reason of a thick Fog which surrounded it, but that on the 11th in the morning it was no more to be seen. A great part of the Mountain on the North side is torn asunder, and the one half overwhelmed the Town, leaving a deep Gulph betwixt that and the other part of the Mountain.

Lucchella had better fortune for of 2000 near half escaped, having happily had warning by some former shakes, and by the Earths swallowing up an old Castle which stood on a rising ground two miles from thence, in a minutes time, no sign of its station remaining, but instead thereof a vast quantity of Waters issued out, which in a little time made a large Lake. Upon sight whereof half the Inhabitants of this Town fled from thence, and the rest with all the buildings were utterly destroy'd. *Palonia* another small Town received much damage by the fall of a Church one of the beautifullest in *Sicily*, which was shattered to pieces on the 11th, and the Dome falling

falling crushed to Death 300 Persons and the Priest that was saying Mass, most of the remaining Inhabitants got into the Fields, and many other Houses did not fall, so that the loss was not so great as in other places. *Buchino* another large Village also, escaped without much slaughter of People, though most of the Houses fell, at *Scodia* a Village about the same bigness 150 people were kill'd by the fall of the Church, and the buildings much shaken. Likewise a Lake about a mile thence, which was two miles about, and very deep was on the 11th wholly swallowed up by the opening of the Earth in the middle of it, and the Channel left dry Land, which still continues. *Chirramonte* another Village, was utterly overthrown and 3 or 400 hundred of the Inhabitants buried in the ruins. *Monterosso* was shaken, but 200 people flying to the Castle for security were with that buried in the ground, and a Pool of saltish Water arose in the place. *Vizzini* a fine Town built on the side of a Hill of the hardest stones like marble which seemed, to ensure it, from such accidents, yet felt some shakes on the 9th, which affrighted the Chief Inhabitants, so that they lived in Tents in the Fields, but hearing no more the next day, they returned home on the 11th in the morning and in a few hours the Town and themselves consisting of about 3500 Souls, were swallowed up in the Earth. *Modica* a large Village was the only place that was utterly ruined by the shake of the 9th, and that so very suddenly that of about 1400 People not one was left alive. A River, about two miles from thence was overwhelmed by the fall of a Mountain, but afterwards found a new passage underneath it, as hath likewise happened to divers other Rivers in *Sicily*, the Earth being thrown over them like a Bridge or Vault. *Bisenti* another Village lost 200 Persons and some few houses were shaken down. A little Town called *Francosme* built most of Timber, though not much damaged by the Earthquakes, yet a dreadful storm of Thunder and Lightning for three days together burnt down the spire of the Church Steeple, which was of Wood covered with Lead. The Nunnery of the Carmelites was almost ruined, so suddenly that five Nuns were smothered in Bed. But not above 12 or 14 Houses more burnt.

The Town of *Carlanton* was shaken on the 9th, and some Houses and People were destroyed, which so alarmed the Bishop and Magistrates that they persuaded the Inhabitants to go into the Fields; About four a Clock next day most of them with the best things they could carry away deserted the Town, and the Morning after the whole Town was over-

turned.

turned in a moments, and of 4000. People not above 800. were killed, by reason of their happy removal. *Ragusa* a renowned City for Situation, Buildings and all other Humane Delights, had a great share in this common Calamity. On Jan. 8. it had several shakes with a terrible storm of Thunder and Lightning, but on the 11th. the Town House, a stately Building with two Churches and divers Houses were destroyed; One of the best Streets in the Town, inhabited by Rich Merchants and Tradesmen, sunk into the Earth in a moment leaving a mighty Chasma or Gaping in the place; One of the Churches sunk also, but the other fell down, the modestest Calculations reckon eight thousand People slain, most of them of principal Quality. Within this Gap the tops of some Houses are visible, from whence proceeds a Noxious Sulphury smell. In *Scodia* only the Bishops Palace, newly built was overturned and 24. Persons were buried in the Rubbish, the Bishop himself being absent, the rest of the Town escaping. *Specafirmo* another considerable Town was shaken the 9th, whereby the Convent of the *Capuchins* was destroyed. All the next day so horrible a storm of Thunder and Lightning happened as is not to be express or imagined, whereby the Town House a very fine Structure, and some other Buildings were ruined; which frighted a few of the Inhabitants into the Fields, but the next morning in one Minute the whole Town was laid in vast heaps of Rubbish, and the Fresh-water Lake a Mile off was made almost dry Land, the remaining Water being Black and Brackish, the Fish wherewith it abounded lying all dead on the Shoar; The Inhabitants that perisht were accounted at least 3500. and about 300 saved themselves by going away the day before. The Town of *Scicchio* suffered 20. shakes successively on the 8th, each greater than the other, and on the 11th. in less than two Minutes was wholly brought to desolation, and vanished out of sight, a stinking Pool of Water succeeding, wherein the Cathedral of St. Stephen and part of St. Salvator Steeple appears above Water. It was judged to contain about six or seven Thousand People of which, it is thought not one made their escape; An old strong Castle at the East-side of the Town likewise fell, and thirty People perisht therein. At *Casimero* a Village of 200. Houses the People were so affrighted at the shake three days before successively, that on the 11th, most of them fled to the Church to beg the assistance of St. Katherine of Sienna in a Chappel held venerable among them, but there they met with death altogether, the Roof of Lead falling and crushing 200. of them in the Church, and

and about 20. more were killed in the Village. In *Casamero* only the Timber Houses suffered and about an hundred Inhabitants were destroyed, the rest flying into the Fields. In the little Town of *Giamoni* and about 400. Persons perished in that Quarter of the Town next the River, the other part escaped. In the Tower of *Livodia*, all the Timber Houses and three hundred of the Inhabitants were destroyed, the Cathedral was burnt down by Lightning, and likewise the famous Pine-Trees on an Hill near adjoining. The large Town of *Jaci* was so shaken that by the fall of Houses and two Churches in the time of Mass above 2000. People perished. The Village of *La Motta* famous for the Summer Houses of the Citizens of *Palermo*, was wholly overthrown, a pond of water now filling up the place and about 200 People were thought to be lost. Lastly *Messina* a great and famous City for Buildings Trade and Riches, was so sensibly shaken on the 9th. that above half the Inhabitants abandoned it, and retired into the Fields; The rest employed themselves in Prayers and Vows, and the Churches were filled with multitudes of all Ages; Forty Eight hours Prayers were Ordered, and many Relicks were carried in Procession through the Streets. On the 11th. Twenty Six Palaces, and many Timber Houses were overturned, and the whole City so fearfully shaken that every one expected present Death, and the Archbishop and the other Priests having given the People Absolution they all endeavoured to avoid the present peril by flying into the Fields where yet they suffered much by the horrible Thunder, Lightning and Rain which continued three days together, so that they were obliged to set up Tents for security; So that few were killed, but most of the Churches much damaged.

Neither was there security from this terrible Visitation of God, even upon the Water, several small Ships and vessels being cast away all along the Coast by the fury of the Waves; the Tydes being three foot higher in most parts than was ever known before. The damage and loss in this terrible sudden and surprizing Desolation in Money, Goods, Houses and Lands is unaccountable; The least that has been computed amounts to the value of six Millions of Ducates, and an 100 years will scarce repair the damage: But the greatest loss was of People, of whom there perished by this dreadful Judgment at least an Hundred and Twenty Thousand Souls, besides a multitude maimed and wounded by the fall of buildings which died afterward, and may be reckoned Twenty Thousand more.

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In short a more Astonishing, a more Universal and more Swift Destruction was never known; And *Sicily* that was one of the most Beautiful, Rich and Fruitful Islands in the World, is now an heap of Rubbish, and a continued Desolation.

LXVII. I have before mentioned some of the Natural Causes of Earthquakes, and the Philosophers of *Italy* are apt to assign the Causes of this astonishing Calamity to proceed from the unreasonable Summer preceeding, and that the many great Rains and Heats which often succeeded each other in *Sicily* the last year might occasion great store of vapours to enter into the Bowels of the Earth, which afterward dilating themselves for want of room forced their way into the Air with the destruction of all that opposed them. But these are only the guesses of short-sighted Men, for the hand of Heaven seemed visible in this terrible Devastation; And as I have before related some of the Presages that usually preceed such sweeping Judgments; so the Prognosticks which ushered in this horrible desolation, and of which there were a Multitude of Witnesses; may be judged intimations, and Effects of the Divine Vengeance these following being very remarkable; That in *June* the Summer before Mount *Aetna's* Roarings and Noise was extraordinary dreadful, which is always reckoned the forerunner of some Eruption, either of the Mount it self or some part thereof; And *May* 15. preceeding, two hours before Sunset the Sky being Clear, the Heavens suddenly appeared all in Flames, without either Lightning or Thunder, which continued about a quarter of an hour; And at the same time two Rainbows were seen in the Air directly above the City pointing as usually toward the Earth, and a third with the points upward toward Heaven, being all three extream bright; and that which occasioned astonishment in the Spectators, and made it really Supernatural, was, that during the whole time of the appearance of the Rainbows, not the least Cloud was visible in any part of the Horizon; In *July* following in one of the Churches of *Catania*, Father *Baletti* a Person much Reverenced by the Common People, lay buried, whose Tomb was much adored, and daily Prayers and Offerings made at his Shrine; It happened that one morning when the Doors of the Church were opened, the Image of this Saint which was erected on his Tomb, was fallen flat on the ground. It was thought at first to be a common accident, but being again set up in its place for seven or eight nights together it was found constantly fallen on the ground, and at last was forced to be laid flat upon the Tomb; where it continued till the

the ruin of the Church and City together, The People were taught to believe, that about an hundred twenty years since, a Flood of Brimstone and Fire breaking out of Mount *Atna*, and approaching with great fury and the destruction of all in its passage toward the Gates of *Catania*, the Citizens expecting nothing but immediate Ruin from it, this Holy Man by his Prayers and Exorcisms put a stop thereto in the presence of all the People, and thereby prevented the approaching desolation. Again in *February* before, about Sunset the Countrey People about *Ari* a small village within three Miles of *Catania* verily thought they saw that Village all in Flames which shewed at first but little, yet in a quarter of an hour all the Houses seemed on a light Fire, which appearance continued about six minutes, and then seemed to decay for want of Fuel. The People that saw it ran with all speed thither to help to quench it, and all along the Road they imagined it increased, but being come thither they found all but an Apparition, or rather Prognostick of the Calamity that some Months after beset the place.

LXVIII. This terrible Earthquake communicated it self to the Island of *Malta* on the one side and to *Calabria* on the other. All the account we have of the Desolations in the former, is in a Letter dated from thence *Jan. 16. 1692.* published by Authority. They began to perceive it on the ninth, and next day they felt five or six shakes, and on the 11th about 3 afternoon it was so violent and lasted so long that the Inhabitants believed the whole City would have been instantly destroyed, the Bells of the Metropolis of the Island rung, the Roof of the Church of our Lady *de Pelay* was thrown down, with part of that of *St. Laurence*. The Church and Colledge of the Jesuits also suffered very much, but the Cathedral and the Church of *la Gismane* received the greatest damage, and are so ruined that they can hardly be repaired. The rest of the Churches and most of the Houses are extremely shattered and deserted by the Inhabitants. The Great Master of the Order was then abroad a hunting, with a great number of other Persons, who were all in danger to have been buried in the Gulph that was made in the midst of a Rock almost under their feet. It is reckoned that the losses occasioned by this Earthquake in the Isle of *Malta* amount to two hundred thousand Crowns. The Grand Master having understood what had happened in *Sicily*, and that their principal Cities from whence they had their sustenance were ruined, he instantly dispatcht away several Gallies laden with Corn to relieve those wretched People

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but arriving at the Port of *Syracuse* there were such mighty Thunders and Lightnings that they could not enter in. They went back to Sea and staid for better weather, and then made a second attempt, but there arose so violent a Wind that they were forced to return for fear of being cast away.

LXIX. The Monthly Mercury gives an account that toward the end of *September 1693.* Another great Earthquake happened at *Catania*, and the Parts adjoining, but the damage that ensued was very small, Nevertheless it was observed that during the most violent shakes the top of Mount *Atna* was considerably sunk. The Duke of *Canastra* Vicar General who was then about *Catanea*, sent certain Persons to view the Mount, who perceived that the top was fallen in above 600 foot within the compass of about 2000 feet, and that all the Earth was tumbled down into the gaping Chasm which was about six miles in circumference. At the same time all the Fountains of *Taurmina* and parts adjacent dried up, and the Earth opened at the foot of an Hill which is about a mile distant, and out of it issued forth five or six Torrents of Sulphurous Waters of different colours. These new Accidents have put the trembling Inhabitants of *Sicily* into fresh Consternations of some impending mischief ready again to overwhelm them.

LXX. I shall conclude these Relations with some natural Reflections of an ingenious Author. These two or three years past (saith he) have been general for Earthquakes they have been felt all over Europe, as well as in *America*. Some have been of opinion that the Earth was a great Animal, and that the shivering of some Ague Fit was the Cause of his trembling. The greatest part of the Heathen Philosophers accused the Stars of these disorders. But to speak one word of the Causes of them, I say there are two which are Natural, the subterranean Fires and Winds are the first cause. The Bowels of the Earth are full of Mines of Coal, Sulphur and Salt Petre, and when it happens that one Stone falling upon another strikes Fire by Collision, those combustible matters being kindled, and the Winds blowing up the flame, they cause most terrible overturnings of the Earth, unless they find Outlets as in *Atna*, *Vesuvius*, and other Mountains of the same Nature. The second natural cause proceeds from the Water that is under the Earth, which undermining the Foundations that support the subterranean Vaults which extend themselves for several Leagues together in divers parts, these Vaults deprived of their usual support overpressed by their own weight, sink

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down, and all of a sudden impetuously pushing forward the Air and the Water enclosed in the Earth, give the upper part such violent and hoistrous jolts as quickly overturn the weaker structures of human Art, which must of necessity give way to those more than Gygantick Impetuosities, that rend and shatter the more solid frame of Nature it self. And of this there is no question to be made, considering what so many Authors have written of the vast Regions that are under the Earth, they say, that there is in the Island of *Malta* a Hill within the Concavities whereof inhabits a famous Plantation of People that have no other day but what they see through the Clefts of the Rocks, this place is called *Gaar Kebir*, or the Great Cavern. In the Territory of *Viterbo* in *Tuscany* there is a large subterranean Burrough called *Maonia*, over which there are Meadows, through which you shall see the smoke of that Burrough arise. But all this is nothing in comparison of what *Martin Martinus* relates in his Chymical Atlas. He reports that there is a Mountain in *China* which is full of great Concavities in several places, which are as it were bored through, and serve as Roads from one Province to another. That there are within this Mountain Lakes, Rivers, Fish, Meadows and Animals of several sorts; and that it would require half a years time to survey and describe all these Caverns.

LXXI. To close all with some Moral and Divine Reflections. Who doth not start at the thought of such tremblings of the Earth, as we have already given large accounts of? In what condition can a man be safe (saith *Seneca*, speaking of Earthquakes) when the World it self is shaken; and the only thing that passes for fixt and immoveable in the Universe, trembles and deceives us? Whither shall we fly for security if where-soever we are the danger be still under our feet? Upon the cracking of an House every man takes himself to flight, and leaves all to save his life, but what retreat is there where that which should support fails us, when the foundations not only of Cities but even of the World it self opens and wavers, what help or what comfort where fear it self can never carry us off? An Enemy may be kept at a distance with a Wall, a Castle may put a stop to an Army, a Port may protect us from the fury of a Tempest. Fire it self doth not follow him that runs away from it, a Vault may defend us against Thunder, and we may quit the place in a Pestilence, there is some Remedy in all these evils. Or however, no man ever knew a whole Nation destroy'd by Lightning. A Plague may un-

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people a Town, but it will not carry it away, there is no Evil of such an extent, so inevitable, so greedily so publickly Calamitous as an Earthquake. For it does not only devour Houses and single Towns but ruins whole Countreys and Nations either overturning or swallowing them up, without so much as leaving any Footstep or Mark of what they were. Some People have a greater horror for this Death than any other. To be taken away alive out of the number of the living. As if all Mortals by what means soever were not to come to the same end, death, and it is not to be regarded whether I am crushed to death by one Stone or by a whole Mountain. Whether I perish by the fall of an House or fall under the burthen of the whole Earth, whether I be swallowed up alone or with a thousand more for Company. We should therefore arm our selves against that blow, which can neither be avoided nor foreseen. It is not the abandoning those places that we find infested with Earthquakes which will secure us, for there is no Place can be warrant against them. What if the Earth be not moved? It is moveable, for the whole body of it lies under the same Law and exposed to danger, only some at one time and some at another. As it is in great Cities where all the Houses are subject to ruin, tho' they do not all fall together. So in the body of the Earth, now this part fails and then that. *Tyre* was formerly subject to Earthquakes. In *Asia* 12 Cities were swallowed up in one night. *Achaia* and *Macedonia* have had their turns, and now *Compagnia*. The Fate goes round and strikes at last where it hath a great while passed by. It falls out often, 'tis true, in some places than in others, but no place is totally free and exempt. And it is not only men, but Cities, Coasts, nay the shores and the very Sea it self that suffers under the dominion of Fate. And yet we are so vain as to promise our selves some kind of assurance in the goods of Fortune never considering that the very ground we stand upon is unstable, and it is not the frailty of this or that Place, but the quality of every spot of it, for not one inch of it is so compacted as not to admit many causes of its Resolution. And though the Earth remain entire, the parts of it may yet be broken.

Thus the three Heathen Philosophers strove to fortifie themselves against these calamities which they judged inevitable, not considering them as punishments of their sins and enormities inflicted upon them by Divine Justice. Hear now what Christians who are instructed in a better School say of them.

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How astonishing (saith a worthy Person of our Nation) are the fearful Effects which Earthquakes have had produced in all Ages? as we may find them in Histories and Philosophical Discourses, where you may read of Rocks torn in pieces, Mountains not cast down only, but removed; Hills raised not out of Valleys only, but out of Seas; Fires breaking out of Waters; Stones and Cinders belched up; Rivers Changed; Seas Dislodged; Earth opening, Towns Swallowed up, and many other such hideous Events. Of which kind our own Memories can furnish us with many at home, although these colder Climates are more rarely infected with such frightful Accidents.

And of all the Animadversions that Divine Justice gives Men, there is none more horrid or less Evitable than this of Earthquakes; For what assurance can we hope for here below, if the Earth quake under our feet? where can we think to escape danger, if the most solid thing of all the World do shake? Is that which sustains all other things above us, threaten us with sinking under our feet? What Sanctuary shall we find to defend us from an Evil that doth encompass us round? And whither can we withdraw, if the Gulphs which open themselves shut up our passages on all sides? With what horror are Men struck when they hear the Earth groan? When her trembling succeeds her complaints, when Houses are loosned from their Foundations, when the Roofs fall upon their heads, and their Pavement sinks under their feet? What hope is there to be had in so general a disorder when fear cannot be fenced by Aight? In other Cases there is some outlet whereby to escape an Evil. An Enemy is beaten from the Bulwark he had possess'd himself; of Earthworks are opposed to the Thundring Cannon; VVinds which raise Tempest. deliver us from them, and after having a long time tossed us to and fro, they cast us on the Shore; Houses serve us for Sanctuaries against the injuries of the Air and VVeather; If a Man will resign his goods to the Fire he may save his Person; Thunder hurts not those who hide themselves in Caverns; VVhen the Pestilence infects whole Cities, we may shun the Contagion by going into the Countrey; And if it dispeople Towns it doth not throw down Houses. But an Earthquake incloses what it overthroweth, and wages VVar not with some few Houses only, but whole Provinces, and sometimes leaves nothing behind it to inform posterity of its Outrages; More Insolent than Fire which spares Rocks; More Greedy than the Sea which vomits up Shipwrack

wracks; More Cruel than the Conqueror who spares VValls; it swallows and devours whaesoever it overturns. The Sea is Subject to its Empire, and Marriners confess that those Storms are most dangerous which are occasioned by Earthquakes.

This misfortune is common to all Kingdoms; Since Man became Criminal, all parts of the Earth are become moveable, and steadfastness must be no longer lookt for in the VVorld, since Innocency is banished thence by Injustice. This disorder is the punishment of our Sin; and Reason as well as Faith doth sufficiently assure us, that the Universe would never have been agitated with these furious Accidents during the state of Original Righteousness; VVherefore should Gods Anger have Armed the Elements against his Faithful and Obedient Subjects? VVherefore should he have overthrown all his works to destroy Innocent Men? VVhy should it have overwhelmed the Inhabitants of the Earth with the ruins thereof, if they had not been sinful? VVhy should it have buried those in the Bowels of the Earth who were not to dye? Let us then conclude that Earthquakes are the Effects of Sin.

Appendix.

HAVING given an Account of the most remarkable and tremendous Earthquakes in the World from the Creation to this time, I think it may not be improper to add two or three unusual Occurrences and strange Passages that have happened of another kind, but altogether as surprizing as the former.

I. The first shall be the Copy of a Letter sent from an Abbot in France giving a Relation of an Hermit living in that Countrey who seems to revive the ancient simplicity and innocency of that solitary Life to which some pious men in former ages confined themselves thereby to be freed from the noise and hurry of the World, and to devote their minds wholly to the Service of God. Which being so very unlike the lazy Luxurious Lives of the generallity of the present Romish Monks and Fryers, may be somewhat diverting, after the reading the former melancholy Relations; And I shall give it you in the Abbot's own words as I find them in the Memoirs of the Present State of Europe for the Month of May 1692.

* Sir, It is now eleven years and an half that the famous Father Hermit has been received into the Wood of my Abby, but I can assure you that at this hour I know him no more than the first day I saw him. This venerable Old Man has been so careful to conceal his Name, Family, Countrey, Age, and all that could make him known, that neither I, nor any of his Brethren, nor, as I fancy, any other Person has ever known any thing of him touching his Birth. Having told him one day that the example of a man of his Quality had mighty Efficacy. He cry'd out immediately, telling me that he was nothing, and that if the run our went he was something, he would depart the Province the next day, insomuch that I never mentioned it to him but once since. It is now about a month that the occasion lay fair for so doing. He told me with some heat that all that was said of his Birth was Lie and Fiction.

* About seven years ago he was grievously sick and forsaken by his Physicians. The most ancient of his Brethren, and whom he most cherished, conjured him to make himself known at least to them, promising never to discover it till after his death. He refused him with a rebuke, telling him that it was above 40 years that he had laboured to conceal himself, and that he would make him lose a work of so many years in one quarter of an hour. The truth is, that in the Province of *Burgundy* where he remained a long while, the report ran that he was the Natural Son of King *Henry IV.* and as soon as he came hither the same report was scattered here. What gave occasion to it so far as I can judge, is his great presence and his Majestic Ayr, which causes him to be beloved and respected generally by all People, his noble and easy carriage and behaviour, his countenance wherein are observed many features of that of *Henry le Grand*, his quick wit, and gay humour, but more especially that profound silence he observes, to prevent his being known, for the more he would be concealed, the more People strive to know who he is, and the less he speaks of himself the more he is discours'd of. As concerning his Age, it is difficult to know it exactly. When he came hither which was in *June 1676* he told me he was 70 years old. Since he has said he was about the Age of the Bishop of *Angiers* who is above ninety. He formerly told me he had seen the Moors go out of *Spain* when they were driven thence, and that he was then tall. In fine his Brethren by other circumstances affirm him to be ninety four years old.

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* Now follows what I know of his Life, and which I have learnt from himself. That until the Age of 20 years he had been well educated, which was the Cause of his great Vigor. That he had born Arms without being wounded. That thinking to retire from the World, he had examined all the different manners of living in the Religious Orders, and that nothing had pleased him so much as the Hermitick Life, after the manner it subsisted in the time of the first Hermits of the East. That this was that he embraced. That for this purpose he had gone into *Italy*, and had retired into a Forrest that belonged to the Republick of *Venice*, whence he had been driven by the frequent visits of the people of that Countrey. That thence he went into *Germany*, and that to see a brave Hermit he willingly went 3 or 400 Leagues. That being since retired into the Kingdom of *France*, he had remained in *Lorraine*, *Champagne*, in *Lionnois*, in *Burgundy*, and lastly in *Anjou*. And that where ever he had been he had built Hermitages, and had assembled Companions. I fancy you will not be sorry that I give you such a particular account of his establishment in this Province, since I am a Witness of it. This good old man having left the Diocess of *Largues*, by reason (as his Brethren told me) of the report that was spread there, of his being the Son of *Henry IV.* of *France*. He took the Resolution of going to settle with one of his Companions in *Normandy* upon the Sea side. Having fallen down as far as *Saumur* upon the River *Loire*, he understood there was a Forrest in that Neighbourhood where he might erect a fine Hermitage, This Forrest is called the Wood of *Bressay*, belonging to *M. de la Meilleraie*. The next day he went with his Companion to view that Forrest, but having found no Water in it, he lost hopes of being able to retire thither. At his coming out of the Wood this good old Man being wearied, and perceiving our Abbey he came to it to refresh himself. I received him and falling presently to discourse of solitude and retreat, he reasoned so well and sensibly of it, that I lookt upon him as a *solitary*, filled with the Maxims and Sentiments of one of the Primitive Hermits. In the sequel of our Conversation he told me the occasion that had brought him into our Countrey, and that he only sought a little Water and Wood to make him a Retreat, I offered him a small space of ground planted with Coppice, near a fine Spring and about a mile from our Abbey, he accepted it, but I thought fit to tell him, by way of precaution, that besides the place I offered him, he could not expect any great assistance from me, because our Abbey

• was small and ruinous, and my Companions would complain if they saw me engage to build and furnish an Hermitage with Requisites; Further I was in a Countrey where were many poor who would murmur if I rendered my self incapable of relieving them. However we would supply Wood and other Materials for building of Cells, and if they could not subsist with the labour of their hands, we, in their necessity would share our bread with them. To this he answered what merits to be known. That he only sought a little Wood to hide himself, and a little Water to build some Cell with Earth, That as to his Nourishment and Cloths, they were the least of his Concerns, and the smallest of his Cares, That his Brethren and he, knew how to bring up Bees, which would furnish them with Cloaths, and the labour of their hands would give them bread sufficient. That they knew how to make Panniers, of which the dearest sold were such as they gave for nothing. That they were Carpenters, Bricklayers, and that they had nor need of any Workman, no not so much as to make their Cloaths. That they would not be a burden to any body. That they would not beg, nor demand any thing of any whoever.

• All this proved exactly true, They have a great number of Bees, They make a great number of Panniers, Baskets and other Oser works which they give away, without having ever sold any for a Penny. They want neither Cloths, nor any of the things necessary for Life; They are a charge to none, nor ever ask any thing, nay are loth to receive what is offered them. They have built nine or ten Cells and a very pretty Chappel. They have them selves grub'd up a part of their Wood to make a Garden and Orchards, and to plant Oliers. This Hermitage is fine and the admiration of all People. And since you would know after what manner they Live therein, I must tell you, That they rise very early; That they begin the day with Meditation and Prayer, That then they go to Prayers in the Chappel, for they have a Priest among them; After they go to work till ten a Clock, then they assemble to hear the reading of some good Book, and then they dine. After Dinner they go to work till five a Clock, Then they go into their Chappel, perform half an hours Meditation, and say some Prayers and from thence they go to the Refectory to take their repast, after which they go again to work upon their Oliers till ten at night; During which one of them in their turns reads some good Book, or the good Father gives them instruction; Then drink is wa-

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ter; wherein they put Juniper-Berries; this they call Genevrette; Their usual meat are Pulse, Legumes and Fruits; and what providence sends them, for they never buy either Flesh or Fish; Their Cells are small and very low, their moveables consist in a Straw Bed, a little Table, and the Representation of Christ on the Cross, some Paper Picture, and some devout Books. They are Cloathed in White, wear no Linnen, have no Shoes but Wooden Sandals and go bare Leg'd; They Live under the obedience of the Bishop of Angiers, who loves them tenderly; They make no Vows but they practice them exactly; They never Beg; They keep no Box; They give a great deal of Alms, and the poor are never seen to go from their Hermitage empty handed; The Father has a very tender Heart, especially toward poor Gentlemen, whom he gladly assists; They seldom stir abroad unless it be to the Parish-Church on *Sundays*, and great Festivals, and never eat in the Neighbourhood; The Father is neither a Priest nor Clerk, but a Person of great reading, especially in History. This is what I know concerning this Old Man, but his Birth is altogether unknown to me; I know People pretend to find additional marks and Conjectures sufficiently strong to establish the report that goes about it; but as these are only Hearisays, and not built upon any thing, he himself has said, little credit is to be afforded to them.

II. The second strange Occurrence or Accident I shall mention is the Abstract of another Letter inserted in the *Memoirs of the Present State of Europe*, for the Month of November, 1693. written from *Breslaw* a City in *Silesia* one of the Provinces of the *German Empire*, and Dated *Sept. 7. 1693*.

• Sir just as I was closing this Letter, there came to me a Person and told me that the Locusts which are like Grasshoppers, appeared in the Air, I went out of the City with a vast crowd of People the better to see this great Prodigy; 'Tis an incredible thing, and if I had not been an Eye witness of it myself I should hardly have believed it. They flew in the Air about a mans height distant from the ground, and reacht up above the highest Steeple, making a noise like a violent wind; and were as thick together as the Snow commonly falls; They past the *Oder*, and then Directed their course toward *Poland* and *Brandenburgh*, and they continue this March to the very Instant I am writing, which is about five Clock in the Evening. It is a frightful sight; These Locusts or Grasshoppers are the length of ones Finger and of Green, Brown and Yellow Colours. Letters from *Austria* and *Bo-*

nia spoke of them a fortnight ago, but no Body gave credit to them; At night they rest and extend themselves at least 16. English Miles in circumference; They eat up every thing, Herbs, Grass, Leaves and whatever is Green, and even the Barks of Trees; They march every day about 12. or 16. Miles, Yesternight they took up their Quarters some two Leagues from hence, and this night perhaps may lodge in the adjacent Parts, or in the Meadow grounds there about. The Contrey People run in great Companies to the places where they think they will light, and with the noise of Drums and Shooting off Guns, fright them a little farther. They write from all parts that these Creatures are not only venomous but they even leave an Infection upon the Grass and every thing they touch; In a Village not far from this Town 'tis said, that 200. Swine were poisoned with them. The thing is amazing but yet true; One can hardly believe that it were possible there should be so many of these Insects in the World; for they are three hours in passing by, and extend themselves three or four Leagues in Length. Some will tell you that they observed upon their Wings the number of the year, 1693. and certain Hebrew Characters, but I must confess that I could discover no such things, otherwise I should have preserved some of these Wings.

In a second Letter from *Breslaw*, Dated *Sept. 14. 1693.* We have this further account.

The Grasshoppers I mentioned in my last, remain yet within four Leagues or sixteen English Miles of this place, and the weather having been a little cold, all the ground round about is covered over with them a foot thick; some contagious Disease may probably be the consequence. The next day which was the Eighth Instant the March of these Creatures yet continued near this City till two a Clock, and in the Morning at Sun-Rising abundance more were observed to pass by; some whereof being weary dropt down in our Streets.

These two Letters were written by a Person of Note, whose Name there is no occasion to tell, but being a Man of Integrity, and writing nothing but what he saw, it would be somewhat strange not to give credit to his Testimony.

III. The Third and Last remarkable Instance I shall give is, An Account of Three Wonderful and Miraculous Cures, lately wrought by the Power of God, and the Divine Efficacy of a sincere Faith in his Blessed Son Jesus Christ.

The first is the remarkable cure of *Mary Maitland*, a French Girl, of Thirteen Years of Age, living at *St. James's Westminster*

for (of which a Relation of undoubted Truth and Veracity, with a multitude of undeniable Attestations is lately published.) This Young Maid was very Lame from her Birth, and as she grew in Years appeared still more deformed in her going, occasioned by a dislocation in her left Thigh, so that in walking, by throwing her Body first on one side, and then on the other, she became ridiculous to the Children in the Streets, who often abused her with ill Names, and threw Dirt at her, to shew how hateful she was in their sight. This ill Treatment much afflicted her, particularly upon *Sunday Novemb. 26. 1693.* when coming from Church she met with her former Young Persecutors, who flockt about her, and bespattered her Cloaths with Dirt; upon her coming home she grieved and wept extremely, complaining to her Mistress of the Abuses offered her, who exhorted her to be patient, and put her Trust in God. In the Evening she took the Bible, and in reading the second Chapter of *St. Mark*, wherein is related the Miraculous Cure of one sick of the Palsy, she seemed very much affected therewith; and told her Mistress that she could not but wonder at the Unbelief of the *Jews*, adding, That if such a thing should happen now, she would soon run and be Cured too; she had no sooner spoke but her great Pains which she formerly felt began to return with more violence, and suddenly stretching out her Leg, the Bone snapt into its place, and her Foot and Knee were instantly restored to their natural posture; Upon which her Pains immediately went off, and she supposed a Voice said to her, *Thou art healed*; and she was fully Cured of her Lameness walking up and down the Chamber, and so she still continues, telling all that come to see, of which there are great numbers daily, that she was Lame, but thanks be to God she is not now so, and that she was recovered by Reading a Chapter in the Gospel without any Humane Help.

This Remarkable Instance of Almighty Power and Goodness has been since followed with Two other of the like Nature, of which I shall now give such a brief and true Relation, with the Names of the Places and Parties concerned therein, as will leave no room for the severest Critick to question the Certainty thereof.

One is the Admirable Cure of *Mrs. Savage*, the Wife of *Mr. Savage*, a Minister, and Schoolmaster living in *Horseshoe-Alley* in *Morefelds*. This Gentlewoman had a very troublesome Lameness in her Hand from a Child, her Fingers being so contracted, that her Hand seemed almost wholly shut, inasmuch that it was of little use to her.

In December last 1693. she had likewise some Weakness and Illness of Body, and about the latter end of the same Month, some Means being administered unto her (for the same, her Husband thought it necessary to implore the Blessing of God thereupon, by Fasting and Prayer, and accordingly went to Prayer with her; before he had done, she found a real Amendment of her Distemper as she declared afterward, and that she was much better than she had been a long time before: After the Duty was ended, as they were sitting by the Fire, the Story of the French Girl aforementioned came into his mind, of which he had heard by two Persons, yet could not give full Credit to the Truth thereof, but used some some expressions of Blessing God if it were true: At length a strong Impression came upon his Spirit, that his Wife's Hand might be Cured by the same Means that the Girl's was (if it were true;) And thereupon he took the Bible to look out the same Chapter, by the Reading whereof (it was said) she was Healed; but not being exactly informed which it was, they fell upon the 8th Chapter of St. Matthew, and Reading thereof the Faith of the Leper, who said, *Lord, if thou wilt thou canst make me clean.* He with an Extraordinary Emotion of Spirit took hold of his Wife's Hand, and asked her if she had Faith to believe that her hand could be Cured; adding, that his Faith was as much as the Lepers; for though he did absolutely believe the Power of Christ, yet he put an *If* to the Will of Christ, or words to that effect: To which she replied, That she had Faith in the Power of Christ, that he was as able now he is in Heaven, to Cure her, as he was when upon Earth, but whether it was his pleasure, or whether he saw it good for her, she could not tell; but if he thought fit, she doubted not but he would Heal her, or to that purpose: Her Husband proceeded in Reading till he came to the Faith of the Centurion about his Servant, when on a sudden she felt a pain in her Knuckles and Fingers, and pulling off her Glove, her Hand instantly stretched out straight, and became like the other, and she was immediately Cured of what was judged by all to be incurable. Her Hand likewise received strength as well as straightness, and whereas it used to be extremely cold it is now as warm as the other: The Gentlewoman has also received such strength of Body, that whereas formerly she was scarce able to walk half a Mile, she can now go three or four Mile: She still continues in Health, both her self and Husband blessing and Praising God for his wonderful and miraculous

Mercy

Mercy and Goodness towards them. The Truth hereof will be confirmed by themselves, to any who inquire at their House aforementioned as well as by divers others.

The last Relation is as certain as the two former, of which I shall likewise give the Names of the Persons, and their Places of aboad, as it came in a Letter from *Hitchin* in *Hartfordshire*, as followeth.

Hitchin, Jan. 6. 1693. Dear Sir, Yours I received the last Night; As to the Person you enquire after, and the Lord's work upon him, take it in short as followeth: His Name is *David Wright*, about 27 or 28 Years of Age; he lived two or three Miles from hence for some Years, in the capacity of a Shepherd, his Distemper of Body by the Evil rendring him incapable of any hard Work: At *Michaelmas* 1693. he desired a Religious Woman to take him into her Service, which she was unwilling to do, because he was a prophane Wretch, and much given to Swearing and other Vices, but upon his promising a Reformation, and that he would go to Hear the Word Preach'd, she Hired him; yet he afterward went on in his Evil Courses, and would not go to Hear: But *Nov. 29.* last past, having notice that there was a Sermon to be Preach'd at *Hitchin*, by one Mr. *Edward Coles*, a worthy Minister, his Mind was so much fixt to go and Hear him, that notwithstanding the same day he had a Brother came for him with a Horse to go some Miles another way about urgent Business of his own, yet he could by no means be prevailed with to go with him, of which Resolution he says he can give no reason in himself: He came to Hear, and the Word made such deep Impression upon his Mind, that his Soul was Converted, and his Body Healed at the same time: He declares that while the Minister was Preaching his hard Heart was softened, and the Eyes of his Mind enlightened, whereby he had Faith in his Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and that at the same time he found his Body Cured of the Evil under which he had long Languished, and is fully perswaded he shall never have it again: But however God may please to do as to that, this is certain, that he hath been very well from the 29th of *November* to this very day: But the Change upon his Soul is more remarkable than the Cure of his Body; To see such a poor grossly ignorant Wretch so suddenly Changed, and to hear him blessing and praising of God, and admiring his Grace and Love to him, That he who knew nothing one hour before, should now speak so sensibly of Jesus Christ and heavenly things, This is to the astonishment and admiration of all that knew him: As to his bodily Distemper,

he

he has had the *King's Evil* for about fifteen or sixteen Years past, and was formerly Touched by King *Charles* the Second: At first he was forced to keep his Bed for several Weeks together, great Pains and divers running Sores upon him; but for about twelve Years past he has been in Service for the most part, yet never in Health all the while, but had Running Sores which were sometimes skinn'd over and swell'd, and then he was at the worst, and felt most Pain till they broke and run again: He has had these Sores in many parts of his Body, of which the Scars are visible, and two continued in the same place in the small of his Back a long while, and at the time when he came to Hear the Sermon aforementioned they were skinn'd over, and swell'd, so that he was in very great Pain, and could not keep pace with his Company; but while he was Hearing, the swelling of his Sores sunk insensibly, and he was well on a sudden, and all his Pain was gone; so that as they returned home, he went before them leaping, rejoicing, and praising God for his great Mercy and Loving kindness to him all the way he went. After he came home he continued to admire the exceeding Grace of God to so vile and ignorant a Sinner as he was, and spent most part of the Night in this heavenly Exercise, and still remains in this admirable frame of Heart. Much more might be mentioned, but this may suffice at present from *Tours, &c.*

We whose Names are hereto subscribed, do hereby attest and declare, That living in the same Family with David Wright, we were Eye and Ear-witnesses of the Truth of the foregoing particulars concerning him, and in confirmation of the Verity thereof, we have hereto put our Hands. Sloop Drever, Tho. Drever. Both Sons to the Mistress of the House with whom David Wright dwelt, Thomas Child, Joseph Morgan.

In short, as Atheism and Prophaneness, it may be, never more abounded than in the present Age; so the Almighty hath not left himself without witness of his Power and Providence in the World, by several Examples both of Judgment and Mercy; And a Race of Impious Wretches being risen up, who deny the Divinity of our Blessed Lord and Saviour; The Almighty by these repeated Instances of Supernatural Power seems at this time loudly to assert and proclaim the Godhead of our Glorious Redeemer, since such Miracles are now wrought by Faith in Jesus Christ, as very much resemble those done by himself when he was in the State of Humanity.

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